



China Limits Internet Exposure to Iran Protests

OE Watch Commentary: On 2 January, *tuidang.org*, an anti-government Chinese-language website banned in China, posted the excerpted article about Chinese media coverage of the protests in Iran. According to the article, the Chinese government has been careful to cover only official news and narratives about the protests. Nevertheless, many Internet users in China have praised the protesters.

The news reports that do get disseminated on the protests reflect the Iranian government's position. However, discussion of the Iranian revolution of 1979 is not mentioned in Chinese media at all. According to the article, the coverage of the protests in Iran was part of a broader policy of China to control the ideologies that surface on the Internet and track, shut down, and forbid content that relates to revolutions. The article also points out that protests much closer to mainland China, such as in Hong Kong, have been censored from media reports in China.

Tuidang.org's own view is that the protests were small-scale at the start and were caused by discontent over the economy and corruption in Iran. However, as the protests spread to the cities they transformed into anti-government protests which demanded that President Rouhani step down.

End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)

Source: “伊朗反政府示威 中共禁报导? (Were the Iranian Anti-Government Protests Censored by the Chinese Communist Party?),” *tuidang.org*, 2 January 2018. <https://goo.gl/ohYQeA>

The Iranian people are currently carrying out large-scale anti-government demonstrations. It is reported that at least 12 people have been killed and hundreds have been arrested so far. Many Chinese netizens “praise” Iranian protesters, but the Chinese Communist Party’s (CCP) official media only reports the Iranian government’s position and deliberately conceals the truth about the Iranian public protests. On January 1, a special order circulated by the Central Propaganda Department that was also circulated on the mainland networks. An urgent directive ordered a plan for controlling the ideologies on the Internet and paying close attention to and tracking mentions of the Iranian revolutionaries, and if necessary, taking coercive measures such as shutting down networks. “

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Indonesian Perspectives on the Iran Protests

OE Watch Commentary: On 3 January, Indonesia's *detik.com* posted the excerpted article which discusses how Indonesians in Iran view the protests. From the perspective of the approximately 370 Indonesian students in Iran and the Indonesian ambassador to Iran, the protests were neither as potentially destabilizing as some media in the West had considered, nor did they signal an end to the government.

According to the Indonesian ambassador in Iran, many of the protests began with a small crowd and then moved to parks or universities where they grew. Police then typically used water cannons to drive away the protesters. The Indonesian ambassador also said that there was little discussion about who was behind the protests within diplomatic circles, and no rumors of Western backing for them, as Iran alleged.

In addition, the ambassador said the protests had not halted trading and academic activities for Indonesians in the country, with the exception of areas directly surrounding the protests. Nonetheless, the Indonesian ambassador urged its citizens in the country to avoid crowded areas as a security precaution. **End OE Watch Commentary (Zenn)**

Source: “Di Balik Gelombang Protes Iran: Ketidakpuasan pada Pemerintahan Mullah (Behind Protests in Iran: Dissatisfaction for the Government of Mullahs),” *detik.com*, 3 January 2018. <https://news.detik.com/bbc/3796510/di-balik-gelombang-protes-iran-ketidakpuasan-pada-pemerintahan-mullah>

Ambassador Octavino Alimudin said, “The protests may begin with a crowd, then move on to the park or to the front of the university. “The security situation in Iran is generally reported to be better, although the security forces appear to be on guard at key points. Asep Nasrullah, an Indonesian student at Gorgan, for example, about 400 km from Tehran, said, “I went to the market and saw many policemen securing the city points. Two days ago there was a water cannon to drive them out.” According to Octavino Alimudin, diplomats share information, especially regarding security conditions, and we have not yet focused on finding out who is behind this all. “So far the demonstration have not forced daily activities to stop, including trade, except the shops around the demonstration sites.”

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