How can the international community promote Internet freedom?

The Future of Human Rights in Iran

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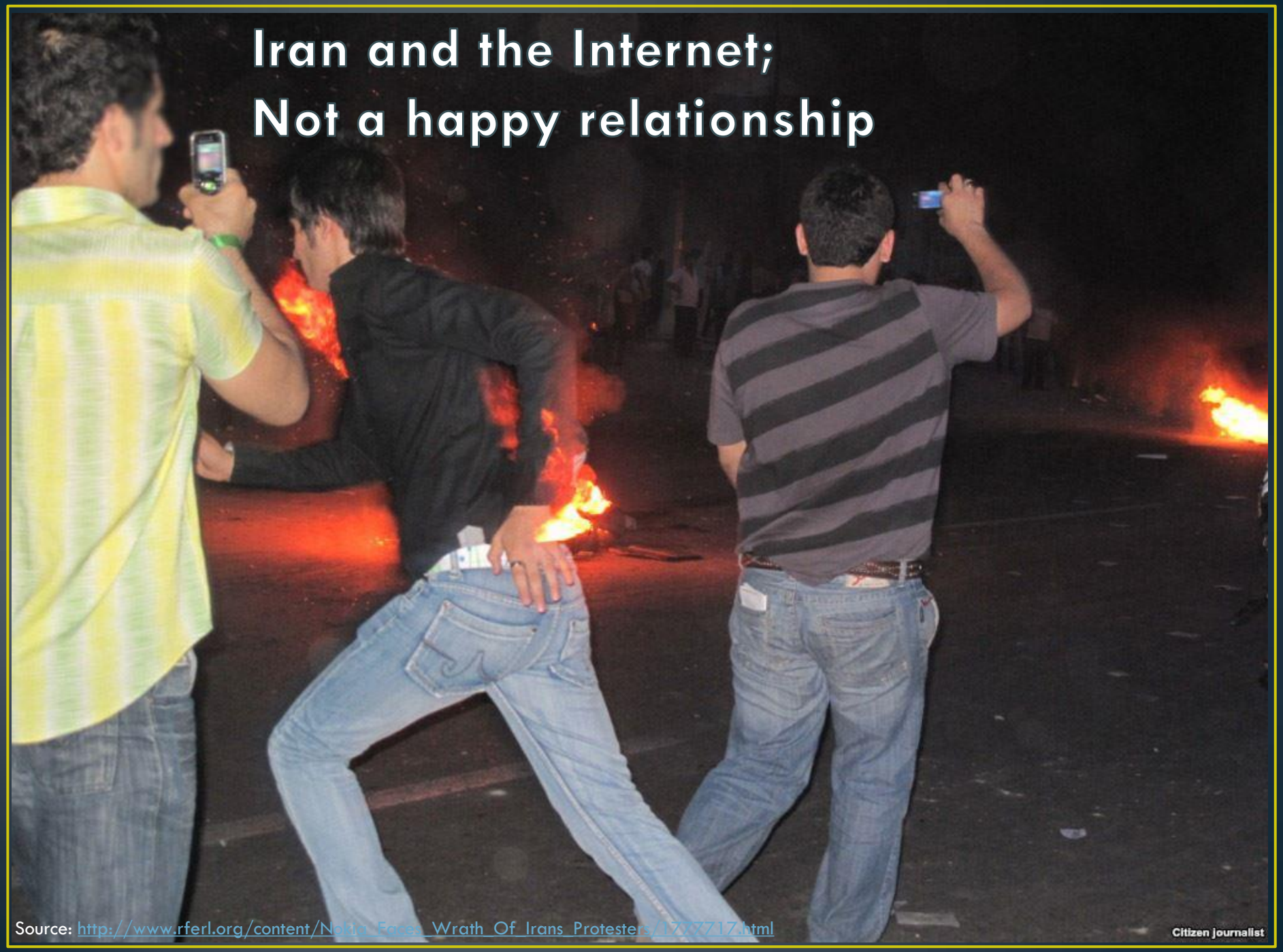
Arash Abadpour, arash@abadpour.com

Iran and the Internet;
Not a happy relationship



Source: http://www.rferl.org/content/Nokia_Faces_Wrath_Of_Irans_Protesters/1777717.html

Internet: “World Wide Wickedness”

Source: http://www.forbes.com/sites/andygreenberg/2012/06/01/what-stuxnets-exposure-as-an-american-weapon-means-for-cyberwar/

Politicization of the Web

How can the international community promote Internet freedom?

Hivos
people unlimited

Internet Governance

The quest for an open Internet in the Middle East and Northern Africa

IRAN

For several reasons, Iran has yet to fully utilise the Internet as a platform, mainly because of the ambiguous relationship between citizens and the establishment. Very severe prosecution and persecution are measures taken by the State in order to curb what it sees as a threat to the Iranian political system and the fabric of decent Islamic society. Nonetheless, Iran is also witnessing an excessive volume of online lawlessness[43] which can be attributed to a lack of Internet jurisdiction. It can also be argued that skewed attention to online activity in Iran has produced a vacuum which encourages harmful activities on the web. These conditions make Iranian Internet usage unique and some aspects of Internet governance less relevant, as outlined later in this report.

From a risk-analysis perspective, the Iranian establishment has a valid case for not promoting Internet access. Recent cases of cyber-espionage and sabotage in Iran provide a strong argument for limiting Internet penetration. Government plans to retract areas of public service which had been extended to the Internet back into physical offices areas, can be understood in this context. There is a prevalent assumption that the Internet is a vehicle for political and social change. However, it can be argued that the Iranian State's perspective on the Internet as a framework for political instability and change is based on external attempts to use it in precisely that manner.

Many Iranians perceive the Internet as one of a limited number of means of engagement in political and social processes. Politicisation of the Internet narrows the perception of it to nothing more than a political entity. If it had not been regarded as hostile by the State, it could have been a more prevalent platform for other functionalities such as community development and social engagement.

Several factors including:

(1) The unbalanced approach to Internet governance

(2) Lack of interest in investing in and increasing Internet penetration rates, and

(3) Politicisation of the Internet by major players including Western governments, outside NGOs and the Iranian diaspora, have resulted in a skewed Internet presence. Any serious discussion on current Internet presence in Iran and any realistic forecast for its future cannot and must not ignore these keys factors.

LAWS AND COMPUTER CRIMES

The regime's agenda dominates the Iranian legislative system. Vague and ambiguous laws can be used by the State apparatus to detain individuals, as and when it pleases. The 'Law of

43. Examples can be found, in Persian, on the website of Fata Police, the Iranian cyber police, at http://www.cyberpolice.ir/ and Gerdab, which has stated ties with the IRGC, at http://www.gerdab.ir/.

Source: http://igmena.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/InternetGovernance_web.pdf

How can the international community promote Internet freedom?

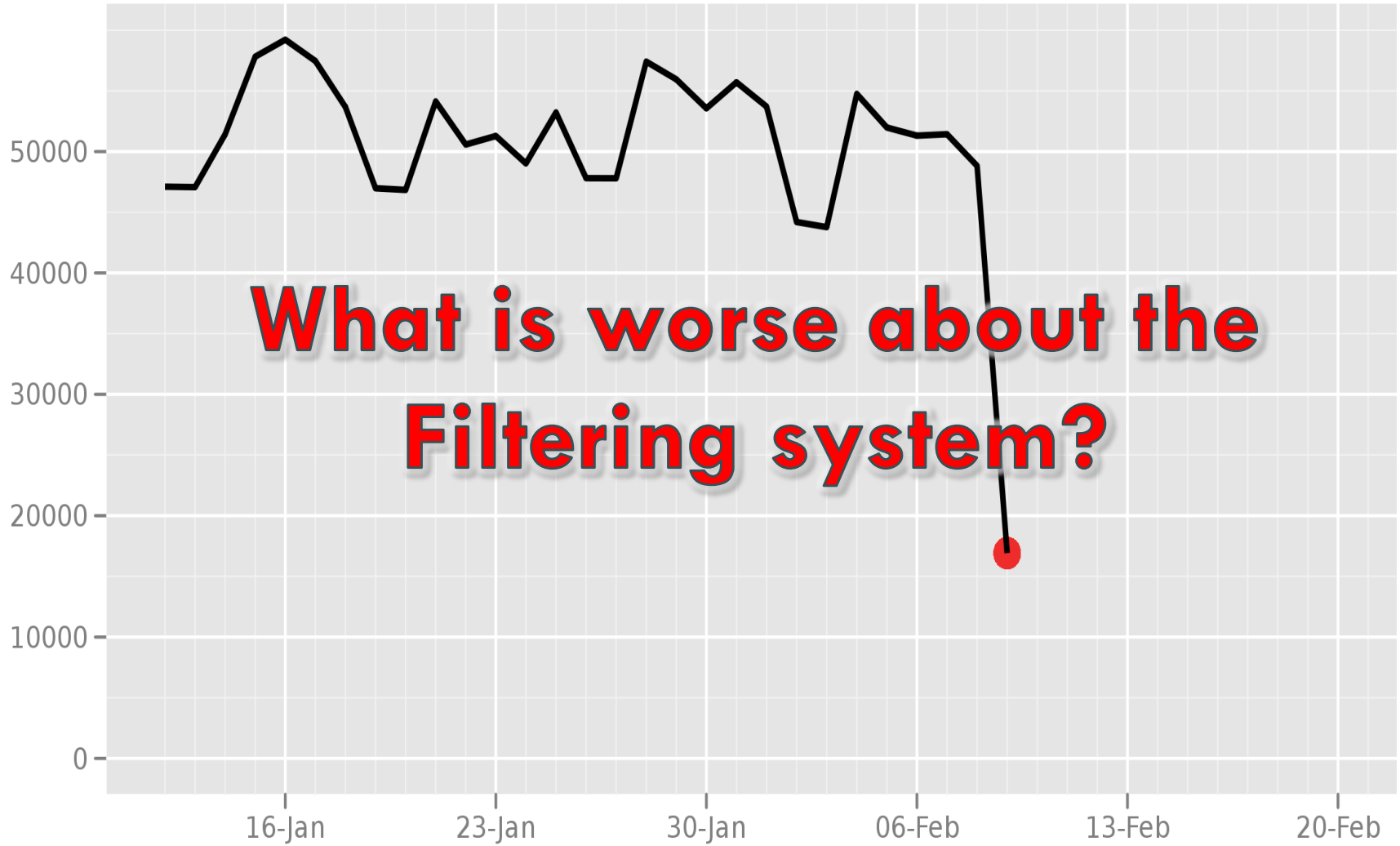
How can the international community promote Internet as an asset for freedom of expression?

National Internet:
The genie is out of the bottle

Opportunities and Possibilities

Source: http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704889404576277391449002016.html

Filtering: The everlasting problem



What is worse about the Filtering system?

Source: https://metrics.torproject.org/users.html?graph=direct-users&start=2012-01-12&end=2012-02-20&country=ir&events=on&dpi=300#direct-users

Free Internet
How “free” is “free Internet”?

Conclusions

Conclusions

- **National Internet:** What are the opportunities?
- **Filtering:** What are the mechanisms through which the filtering system is damaging to the social/political movement in Iran?
- **Free Internet:** Does the public still wait for a clarification?
- **Internet use:** Are post-training check-ups done?

Thank you for your time
Any questions/comments?