

## Biased Media Coverage of Iranian Unrest and Protest Movement

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The Mainstream Media is pushing forth the weaponized narrative that the Iranian government is carrying out a cover-up of mass killings that supposedly occurred during its recent unrest, though this is nothing more than an infowar conspiracy designed to make the majority of the non-violent citizens that participated in the large-scale protests suspicious of the state as well as further discredit the country's international reputation.

Amnesty International scandalously cited unpublished and vaguely described "credible reports" to claim that over 200 people were killed during Iran's recent unrest, adding that "the real figure is likely to be higher". This accusation is part and parcel of the renewed Hybrid War on Iran that's seeking to capitalize on the failed Color Revolution attempt from last month when tens of thousands of people took to the streets to protest the government's decision to decrease fuel subsidies in order to fund a cash payment plan to the country's most needy families. It should be said that the majority of the people who participated in these large-scale protests didn't engage in acts of violence, but their presence at these events inadvertently served as cover for a select cadre of professional provocateurs and foreign intelligence agents to carry out attacks against law enforcement officers and public property by exploiting those people as human shields behind which to hide.

As the author wrote at the time, "Iran's Protests Are Grassroots, Not Foreign-Driven, And That's The Real Problem", while also later warning in an exclusive interview with Iran's "Young Journalists Club" that Iran is being victimized by a US Hybrid War. These two analyses might initially seem mutually exclusive but they aren't. Legitimate grievances served to spontaneously bring a critical mass of protesters into the streets, during which time the vast majority of the participants were unwittingly turned into human shields by Hybrid War "sleeper cells" that were waiting for an opportunistic moment to carry out antistate terrorist activities such as the ones that were previously described. The Iranian authorities ultimately prevailed in restoring law and order, though it's presumed that some of the most radical provocateurs might have been injured or even killed throughout the course of these security operations, which could naturally occur in any country facing similar unrest.

The US and its regional allies who support the forces responsible for the recent violence desperately wanted to film, selectively edit, and then propagate decontextualized footage of those individuals clashing with the state so that they could then present this as so-called "evidence" that Iran is "killing unarmed protesters", hoping that this infowar conspiracy would make the majority of the non-violent citizens that participated in the protests suspicious of the state as well as further discredit the country's international reputation.

That plan failed, so now the back-up one is to still make this claim regardless of any fabricated "evidence" and strongly hint that the reason that there isn't any is because Iran cut off the internet during its "crackdown". While criticized by some at the time, it was actually a very wise move for the state to do so in order to offset the exact same scenario that was just described, though it unwittingly fed into the US' back-up infowar narrative.

Even so, that doesn't mean that it was the wrong thing to do since the benefits of preventing further provocations during that very sensitive time far outweigh the "costs" of having Iran's adversaries conspiratorially claim without any fabricated "evidence" that the security forces "killed hundreds of innocent protesters". In terms of the bigger picture, it's much better to decisively nip the Color Revolution unrest in the bud and deal with unsubstantiated claims from self-interested international forces than to be too afraid of being criticized for cutting off the internet and then having to face the consequences of those same actors fabricating "evidence" to back up their preplanned provocative claims that "hundreds of innocent protesters were killed". Considering all of this, there isn't any credence to the West's accusations that Iran is carrying out a cover-up of mass killings during its recent unrest as these claims are nothing more than an infowar conspiracy.

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Andrew Korybko is an American Moscow-based political analyst specializing in the relationship between the US strategy in Afro-Eurasia, China's One Belt One Road global vision of New Silk Road connectivity, and Hybrid Warfare. He is a frequent contributor to Global Research.

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