

Structure of Iran's State-Run TV IRIB

Iran's state-run TV is the largest element of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), a body that, according to Iran's constitution, is the country's only radio and TV broadcaster. The IRIB seeks to "strengthen the country's cultural solidarity" and has established a vast network of internal and external channels. The organization's annual budget is reportedly 900 million US dollars, and their personnel is estimated at 46,000.

Name, Logo

Iran's state-run radio and television organization is officially known in Persian as Seda va Sima-ye Jomhuri-ye Eslami-e Iran [The Voice and Vision of The Islamic Republic of Iran]. On its website and in its English-language broadcasts the organization, however, is referred to as the IRIB.



صدا و سیماي جمهوری اسلامی ایران
IRIB logo

The IRIB's logo consists of the national emblem of the Islamic Republic of Iran and two graphic depictions of the Arabic word "laa [no]" that include elements of Shi'ite symbolism. When it was designed in the early 1980's, the logo symbolized saying "no" to the West and the East, and the two "no" terms were used as shorthand for the United States and the Soviet Union. The words depict a network when joined together with the graphic picture of an eye. The name Seda va Sima-ye Jomhuri-ye Eslami, in the uniquely Persian Nastaliq script, appears underneath the logo.

Mission, Policies

The IRIB replaced the national Iranian Radio and Television (NIRT) after the 1979 Islamic revolution; however, it was with a new mandate. The IRIB's mission statement portrays the world's media scene as a "battlefield," in which an "intensifying media war" is raging. According to the IRIB, all efforts in this battlefield are "focused on winning the public opinion through drastic changes in culture and lifestyles of listeners and viewers."

- International media are portrayed on the IRIB's official website as "the supranational waves and messages [that] have trespassed the geographical and cultural borders, with domineering empire of Western Media aiming for the cultural conversion of the Independent nations specifically focusing on the Islamic Republic of Iran." It is in the face of this perceived invasion that the "IRIB should play its key role in strengthening the country's cultural solidarity as well as stressing National identity together with fighting against the destructive waves."
- When the organization's current chief, Ezzatollah Zarghami, was reinstated for a second five-year term on 7 November, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamene'i called on him to enhance "morality, religion, and hope" in the Iranian society by "focusing on

promoting ethical and religious values and increasing public awareness" (Iranian TV, Mehr News Agency, 7 November).

According to its charter, the general principles of IRIB's policies include the following:

- a) "The majesty and supremacy of Islam over all of the programs so that the programs which are against Islamic criterion would be avoided"
- b) "The majesty of spirit of the Islamic revolution as well as that of constitution over all of the programs"
- c) "The fulfillment of the Supreme Leader's point of view as the Islamic Jurisprudent";
- d) "Setting the situation toward the self-sufficiency and embodiment of the policy of 'Neither East, Nor West' in all of the fields of politics, social affairs, culture, economics, and military within the framework of the Islamic Republic's Laws"
- e) "IRIB should contribute to spreading of awareness and growth of society in the fields of religion, politics, social affairs, economics, culture, and military"
- f) "IRIB belongs to the Iranian nation; therefore, it should reflect the lives and states of country's different tribes and social classes"
- g) "IRIB should promote the unity of the nation"
- h) "IRIB should welcome criticism"
- i) "IRIB is obligated to convey its message as indirectly as possible within the attractive artistic frameworks in terms of the different social classes in order to touch the feelings and thoughts of the society"
- j) "Enforcing and boosting the morale, hope, trust, hardworking, altruism, and resistance, according to the spiritual needs of the people"
- k) "Fair TV and radio coverage" (www.irib.ir/english).

Channels

To accomplish its mission, the IRIB has established radio and TV stations in the Iranian capital, Tehran, as well as some 30 provincial radio and TV channels. In addition, the IRIB broadcasts channels aimed at international audiences, including Iranian expatriates. These channels broadcast news and other programs in English, Arabic, and other languages and also include anti-Western propaganda.

The main IRIB TV channels available inside Iran include the following:

Channel 1 (National Channel)

Channel 1 is the IRIB's flagship channel, available all over Iran. The channel broadcasts news and information as well as entertainment. Its news bulletins that air at 1030 and 1730 GMT are considered to be the official voice of the Iranian Government.

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Channel 2 (The Channel for Elite)

There is no significant difference between the programming on this channel and the programming on Channel 1. Channel 2 was originally launched in the 1970's as a channel for intellectuals, but it is no longer considered as such, and the IRIB is planning to revamp Channel 2 into a TV channel for children (*E'temad*, 27 July 2008).

Channel 3 (The Youths Channel)

This channel mainly broadcasts sports and entertainment programs, and the IRIB plans to turn it into the IRIB's Sports Channel (ISNA, 6 October 2008).

Channel 4 (The Culture & Science Channel)

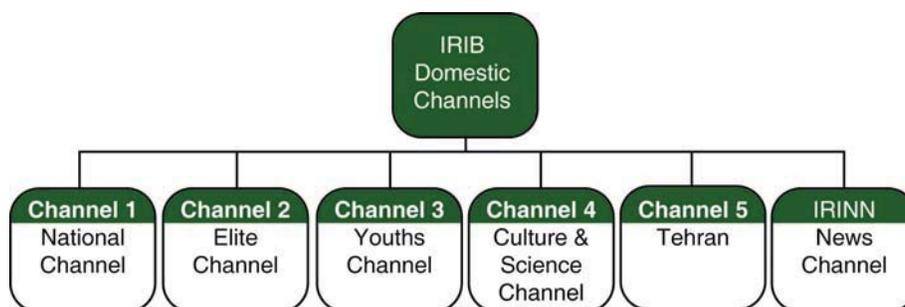
This channel broadcasts cultural and scientific programs as well as documentary films.

Channel 5 (The Tehran Channel)

Although Channel 5 is the TV channel of Tehran Province, the channel can be received across Tehran and the central provinces, as well as parts of Mazandaran Province in the Caspian region. OSC has observed that the channel often airs phone calls from viewers in these different provinces.

IRINN (News Channel)

The Islamic Republic of Iran News Network (IRINN) is Iran's rolling news channel, and appears modeled after Western news channels such as CNN, BBC News, and Sky News. Broadcasting domestic and foreign news round the clock, the IRINN also features debates and round-table discussion programs, often on international developments and with an anti-Western slant.



The IRIB's external services include the following TV channels:

Sahar TV

Sahar TV is the IRIB's main external services channel. Its mission includes "introducing the Islamic revolution" and "news dissemination" in various foreign languages including Azeri, Russian, English, French, Bosnian, Kurdish, and Urdu (www.sahartv.irib.ir).

A-Kawthar

This Arabic-language channel broadcasts programs on Islamic (Shi'ite) thoughts and culture from 0300 to 2300 GMT (www.alkawthartv.ir).

Qods TV

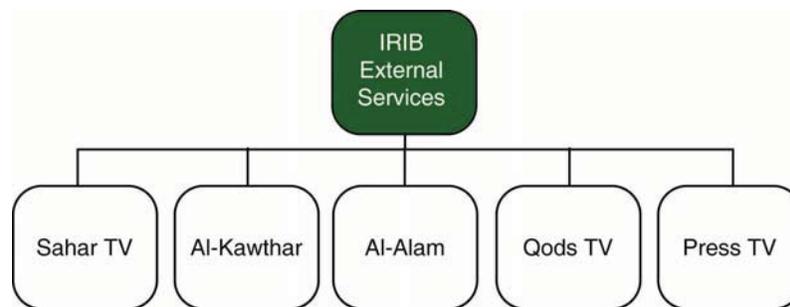
Qods TV is an Internet-based station that reflects Iran's views on Israeli-Palestinian issues. It was launched in 2006; however, OSC has observed that the website is currently unavailable (www.qodstv.ir).

Al-Alam

This rolling news channel in Arabic, which was established in the post-9/11 period and disseminates Iran's perspective on issues, is aimed at viewers in the Middle East and Persian Gulf region and is available worldwide via satellite.

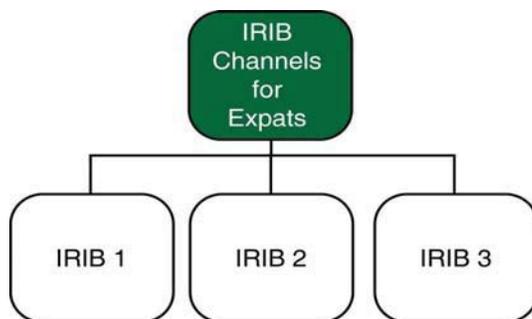
Press TV

Press TV is the IRIB's English-language rolling news channel, which appears modeled after Western international channels such as the BBC and CNN.



The IRIB's TV channels aimed at Iranian expatriates include IRIB 1, IRIB 2, and IRIB 3, which together comprise the Jaam-e Jam Network. Jaam-e Jam was established in 1997, and its mission is "protecting the Islamic identity of Iranians living abroad."

- **IRIB 1** beams its programs towards Europe, for Iranians living there.
- **IRIB 2** broadcasts its programs for Iranians living in Canada and the United States.
- **IRIB 3** broadcasts its programs for Iranians in Asia and Australia (www.jjtvn.ir).

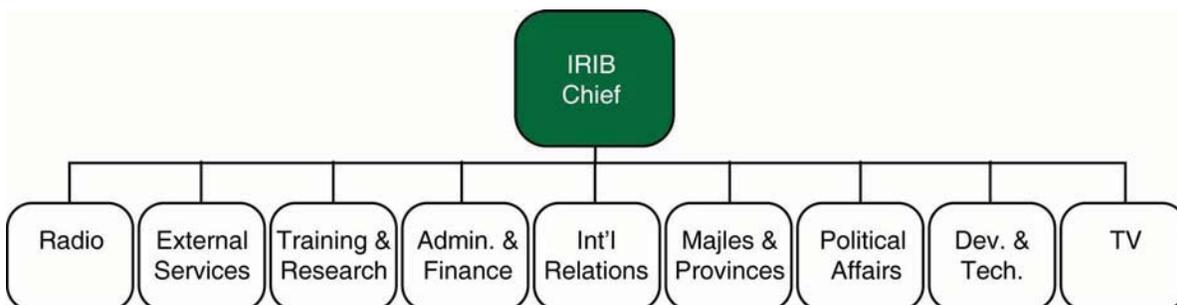


Administration, Policy-Making

In theory, the IRIB's chief reports to the organization's supervisory board, which consists of representatives from the executive, legislative, and judiciary bodies (Article 175 of Iran's Constitutional Law). In practice, however, the IRIB's chief is ultimately answerable to the Supreme Leader, who appoints him or her (Article 110 of Iran's Constitutional Law).

The IRIB chief has nine deputies who report to him; however, the political affairs deputy is allegedly directly linked to the Supreme Leader's office (www.jomhoriyat.com, 18 May).

- The office of the political affairs deputy controls the IRIB's newsroom, the Central News Bureau, which produces and broadcasts news and political commentaries across the radio and TV networks.
- The deputy chiefs for radio, TV, and external services, as well as the political affairs deputy, are directly responsible for the content of broadcasts.
- The development and technology deputy's office provides and maintains hardware.
- The training and research deputy oversees the IRIB's research center and college of radio and television, among other activities.
- The office of the deputy for Majles and provinces is also responsible for an annual festival of the IRIB's audio and video products.
- The international relations deputy's office maintains the IRIB's ties with other national radio and television organizations and public service broadcasters across the world and represents the IRIB at the Asia-Pacific Broadcasters' Union (ABU).



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Budget, Personnel

The IRIB's official websites do not provide information on the organization's annual budget or number of personnel. However, a recent article on the reputable Communication Critic website, which posts articles on the IRIB's activities, cites the IRIB's annual budget for the year 1388 (starting on 21 March 2009) as 870 billion tumans (roughly over 900 million USD) and states the number of IRIB personnel as 46,000 (www.montaghed.blogfa.com, 21 October).

Who's Who in IRIB

Ahmadi-Afzadi, Mas'ud: Channel 5 (Tehran Province) TV chief

Akhundi, Majid: IRIB deputy chief for political affairs

Aqamohammadi, Ali: IRIB deputy chief for radio

Baban, Fuad: Channel 1 TV news anchor

Barazesh, Alireza: Channel 1 TV chief

Bawali, Abdolreza: Central News Bureau chief, editor-in-chief of Channel 1 news

Darabi, Ali: Acting chief of IRIB and deputy chief for Majles and provinces

Daneshvar, Majid: IRIB election headquarters secretary

E'tesami, Ramin: Press TV website director

Enadi, Morad: Channel 1 commentator and interview moderator

Fanian, Sa'id: International affairs adviser to IRIB chief

Faraji, Mehdi: Channel 2 TV chief

Gholami, [FNU]: TV network political programming manager

Hayati, Mohammad Reza: National radio and Channel 1 news anchor

Heydari, Morteza: Channel 1 and 2 news and political interview moderator

Homayunfar, Mehdi: Deputy chief, Press TV

Kalantari, Sima: Channel 5 newsreader

Mirbaqeri, Morteza: IRIB deputy chief for TV

Mohajerani, Seyyed Mohsen: IRIB chief's senior adviser

Namavar: Press TV live broadcasts director

Nasrollahi, Akbar: Acting deputy for research and training

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Nik-Ravin, Fereshteh: Adviser to deputy chief for political affairs

Purhoseyn, Reza: Channel 3 TV chief

Purmohammadi, Ali Asghar: Channel 3 TV chief

Qayyumi, Tahereh: Channel 1 newsreader

Rajabi-Memar, Majid: Chief, Jaam-e Jam TV Network

Roku'i, Zahra: Channel 3 newsreader

Rostamvandi, [FNU]: Radio news manager

Sadat, Seyyed Ahmad: Al-Alam TV chief

Saduq, Amir Hoseyn: Channel 5 newsreader

Saleh-Ala, Mohammad: Popular channel 4 talk show presenter

Sarafraz, Mohammad: IRIB's deputy chief for external services, head of Press TV

Sebqati, Iraj: Acting deputy chief for political affairs

Seyyed Mehdi, [FNU]: TV news manager

Shirazi, Mahnaz: Channel 1 and 2 newsreader

Soltani, Hasan: IRINN anchor and interview moderator

Tahami, Sa'id: Press TV news director

Zabolizadeh, Ardeshir: IRINN chief

Zarghami, Ezatollah: IRIB chief since 2004