Strategic Memo

Cybersecurity Priorities for the First 180 Days of Democratic Transition in Iran

Independent Operational Blueprint

Aligned with the Emergency Phase framework of the Iran Prosperity Project

IRCT.io — Iran Cyber Transition

March 2026

Executive Summary

Cybersecurity during political transition is not an IT issue alone. It is a state continuity issue affecting telecommunications, energy, water, transport, public records, and citizen trust.

Publicly available transition planning associated with the Iran Prosperity Project already recognizes cybersecurity as a core pillar of early stabilization, including protection of critical infrastructure, telecommunications resilience, and the need for national coordination mechanisms during the emergency phase.

This memo proposes an operational implementation model for the first 180 days of democratic transition, designed to reduce systemic cyber risk, preserve service continuity, and support the creation of accountable long-term cyber governance institutions.

Phase 1: Immediate Stabilization and Visibility

Days 0 to 10

> Objective: Prevent infrastructure sabotage, preserve communications, and establish operational cyber coordination.

The First 72 Hours

1. **Telecommunications and internet backbone continuity**
   Secure physical and logical access around internet exchange points, core routing infrastructure, major telecommunications facilities, and primary data centers.
2. **Privileged access containment**
   Freeze or strictly review high-risk privileged remote access to critical government, telecommunications, and infrastructure networks.
3. **Interim national cyber coordination cell**
   Stand up an interim operational coordination capability aligned with the broader transition framework as a 24/7 incident and decision-support node.
4. **Sectoral triage**
   Immediate defensive prioritization covering electricity, water, transport, telecom, and critical public records.

Days 1 to 10

1. **Passive asset discovery and monitoring**
   Deploy passive monitoring across priority OT, telecom, and government digital environments.
2. **Insider-risk and lateral-movement reduction**
   Emergency access review to reduce unauthorized privilege persistence and internal sabotage risk.
3. **Emergency playbooks for operators**
   Sector-specific emergency cyber procedures covering communications continuity, incident escalation, and manual fallback actions.

Phase 2: Structured Response and Interim Governance

Days 11 to 100

> Objective: Move from emergency stabilization to organized incident response, reporting, and interim regulatory structure.

Days 11 to 40

1. Interim CERT/CSIRT capability

3 Trusted procurement and supply chain security
Procurement principles reducing dependency on untrusted hardware and software.

Diaspora and International Advantage

The first 180 days will require highly specialized cyber capacity that may not be immediately available inside the country at sufficient scale. The publicly available Emergency Phase framework already assumes cooperation from qualified engineers, telecom operators, technical staff, trusted diaspora experts, and structured emergency international support.

Diaspora expertise is not a symbolic add-on, but a practical transition asset. A vetted diaspora contribution model can accelerate cyber stabilization, improve technical standards, and help bridge toward long-term national capability without displacing national ownership.

Closing Position

This memo is not presented as an official institutional document. It is an author proposal designed to operationalize the public Emergency Phase transition logic in the domain of cybersecurity, telecom resilience, critical infrastructure defense, and accountable cyber governance.

Its purpose is to support practical discussion, implementation planning, and expert coordination during a potential democratic transition in Iran.

اولویت‌های تحقیقاتی سلامت برای ۱۴۰۸ روز ملی گرامیداشت کرونا در ایران

دانشگاه علوم پزشکی

پژوهشکده سلامت و بهداشت جهانی ایران

مارس ۲۰۲۶

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