# Suspiciousness, conspiracy theory, or the gap between state and nation?

Throughout the last week, Persian Twitter has been a hotbed of opinions and videos dissecting the officially announced statistics on the Islamic Republic's election. Despite the announced turnout rates of 40 and 50 percent of the eligible voters, respectively, in the first and second rounds of the election, viral hashtags like #ضریب3, meaning multiplied by 3, or [**#10PercentRegime**](https://twitter.com/hashtag/10PercentRegime?src=hashtag_click) imply otherwise.

A screenshot of a computer

Description automatically generated

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These hashtags discuss how, based on people’s observations of election stations and mathematical laws like Benford, it is improbable that the turnout is as high as announced. While the statistical argument about the improbability of the numbers being multiples of three is intriguing, it is crucial to recognize the broader context. The infinite potential for finding such anomalies (e.g., multiples of four, five, six, etc.) makes this specific pattern less compelling as concrete evidence of manipulation. However, the significance of this observation lies in what it reveals about public sentiment.

The pattern, while intriguing, does not necessarily indicate that the figures were deliberately multiplied by three. Instead, it suggests that the numbers were manipulated in some way, likely through a deterministic algorithm that inadvertently produced this pattern. The fact that the announced numbers are all multiples of three strongly suggests data manipulation, though it does not provide details on the exact method used.

The rapid spread of this narrative on Twitter is a testament to the deep-seated mistrust among the populace toward official announcements. Regardless of the statistical validity of the anomaly, the swift questioning and doubt of the official figures highlight the current state of public trust in authorities and the speed at which such sentiments can spread.

We should consider the context of these sentiments: a lack of transparency, a history of deception, repression, censorship, and vast corruption, which would consequently lead to erosion of trust.

Throughout its 45 years of authority, the Islamic Republic has operated with the least transparency, so even publicly published documents like the fiscal year budget also do not show transparent sources of expenditure and income. On the other hand, state-controlled media (IRIB) suppress information or propagate propaganda, leading people to seek alternative explanations, often in the form of conspiracy theories. Today, artists like Toomaj Salehi are in prison for their anti-regime rap songs, and political dissidents are in line to get executed for their beliefs.

The Islamic Republic regime holds its elections neither free nor fair. Suspicion of election rigging or corruption undermines the government's perceived legitimacy. Since the government came to power by non-democratic means, its very foundation is viewed as illegitimate, prompting ongoing suspicion.

All said the constant lies revealed constructed a rooted mistrust between the nation and the state that here, I mention just a few of them:

**COVID-19 Statistics:**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the IR was accused of underreporting the number of cases and deaths. Internal documents leaked to the media suggested that the real numbers were significantly higher than the official reports.

The discrepancy between official statistics and independent reports from health workers and citizens led to widespread skepticism about the government's handling of the pandemic.

This situation highlighted the ongoing mistrust between the state and the public, as people relied more on unofficial sources for accurate information.

**Downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752:**

In January 2020, the IRGC mistakenly shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane, killing all 176 people on board. Initially, Iranian officials denied responsibility, attributing the crash to technical failures.

Once evidence surfaced that the plane was shot down by an Iranian missile, the government was forced to admit the truth. This reversal and initial denial caused outrage and further diminished the regime's credibility. The incident underscored the regime's propensity for obfuscation and its impact on public trust.

**Environmental and Air Quality Data:**

The IR has been accused of underreporting pollution levels and environmental degradation. Independent assessments often show much higher levels of pollution than official reports.

Public Reaction: Citizens, especially those in heavily polluted cities like Tehran, experience the direct consequences of poor air quality, which contradicts official improvement claims. This ongoing discrepancy contributes to the public perceiving the regime as untrustworthy.

These examples demonstrate how historical instances of IR deception contribute to the current climate of suspicion and conspiracy theories. The public's skepticism towards official statistics is rooted in a long history of misinformation, reinforcing the perceived illegitimacy of the state's announcements.

Since the regime has a history of lying and manipulating facts, people are more likely to disbelieve official narratives and assume the worst, fueling conspiracy theories that could not be blamed on ignorance but rather on a political and historical awareness of its believers.

Launch Oct 8

Change the IG cover photo to the full quote. Both video and photo. Take the reel out of the home grid.

Twitter: still photos. Quotes, demographics in ALT

TikTok: videos

Sample flyer

Date

Screening: 4-5 pm

Event: 5-6:30

Reception: 6:30 -7:30

Shut down: 8:00

Goal is to have 100 total

Change the fonts and make them smaller

I changed my voice to…

Change the wording it doesn’t matter

20 per platforms by Aug 19