

Six Iranians arrested for posting 'vulgar' Happy video

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The video shows several people dancing to Pharrell's track in and around Tehran

Police in Iran say they have arrested six people suspected of posting a version of Pharrell Williams' hit Happy online.

The [clip](#) shows three men and three unveiled women singing and dancing.



ISNA news agency said the arrests follow "a series of intelligence and police operations".

They added that Tehran police chief Hossein Sajedinia called the video "a vulgar clip which hurt public chastity".

A vulgar clip which hurt public chastity was released in cyberspace

Sajedinia is also quoted as saying after the clip "was released in cyberspace, police decided to identify those involved in making that clip".

ISNA said the detainees had "confessed to their criminal acts".

State television meanwhile [broadcast footage](#) of what it said was the group of men and women who had appeared in the video.

Pharrell's track Happy, which appeared on the Despicable Me 2 soundtrack, went to number one in the UK

They stood with their backs to the camera at what appeared to be a detention centre, answering questions and expressing their regret.



The clip was removed from YouTube after their arrest, but other users have since reposted it.

Pharrell, 41, reacted to the news by posting on [Facebook](#): "It is beyond sad that these kids were arrested for trying to spread happiness."

The original video for Pharrell's song has been viewed almost 250m times on YouTube.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has indicated he wants to create

more opportunities for women

Under Iran's version of Islamic law, women must cover their hair and wear loose-fitting clothing meant to preserve their modesty. However, the rules are widely flouted.

More than a decade ago a "morality police" unit was formed to make sure that women respect the dress code in public.

The internet is also heavily filtered in Iran, with the authorities blocking access to popular social networking sites.

Iranian [President Hassan Rouhani](#), who was elected last June, has indicated he wants to create more opportunities for women in the country.

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