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WORLD BRIEFING | MIDDLE EAST

Iran: Reformist Cleric's Newspaper Is Shut Down

By [ROBERT F. WORTH](#)

The authorities have shut down the newspaper of the reformist cleric Mehdi Karroubi, left, who angered [Iran's](#) senior leaders by publicizing claims that protesters arrested after the disputed June elections were raped in prison. The newspaper, Etemad-e-Melli, was ordered to stop printing Sunday night by a Tehran prosecutor, Saeed Mortazavi, Mr. Karroubi's Web site reported. On Monday, Mr. Mortazavi denied that the paper had been banned, saying it failed to publish because of printing problems, Reuters said. But state-run Press TV reported that an investigating judge ordered the paper closed for "publishing unlawful and criminal material." Protesters gathered outside the paper's offices on Monday and clashed with the police, who arrested some of the demonstrators, Press TV said.

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