



Plenary sitting

20/01/2026

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statements by the Council and the Commission

pursuant to Ruler 136(2) and 136(4) of its Rules of Procedure

on the brutal repression against protesters in Iran

on behalf of

the EPP Group

the S&D Group

the ECR Group

the Renew Group

the Greens/EFA Group

European Parliament resolution on the brutal repression against protesters in Iran

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran,
- having regard to its resolution of 13 November 2025 on addressing transnational repression of human rights defenders,
- having regard to the statements by the President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, and the High Representative/Vice-President, Kaja Kallas, following the violent crackdown in January 2026,
- having regard to the award of the 2023 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of thought to Jina Mahsa Amini and the Women, Life, Freedom Movement in Iran,
- having regard to the decision by the President of the European Parliament Roberta Metsola to ban all diplomatic staff and representatives of the Iranian regime from all European Parliament premises,
- having regard to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1966,
- having regard to the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime,
- having regard to the EU Guidelines on violence against women and girls and combating all forms of discrimination against them,
- having regard to the joint statement of 13 January 2026 by United Nations Special Rapporteurs and independent experts,
- having regard to the Charter of the United Nations,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,

- having regard to the OHCHR press release of 10 January 2026 of the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on calling for the immediate restoration of internet access in Iran,
 - having regard to Rules 136(2) and 136(4) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A.** whereas on December 28, 2025, demonstrations broke out in Iran and quickly developed into nationwide protests with tens of thousands of Iranians pouring into the streets across different cities and provinces following 8 January 2026, rising to hundreds of thousands in the following days; whereas the demonstrations were initiated by bazaar merchants who closed their shops in protest of the country's faltering economy, their marginalisation within the Iranian economy, the collapse of the currency and the decay of living standards and evolved into larger anti-government protests representing a wide spectrum of Iranian society with demonstrators calling for fundamental political change and an end to the current regime;
- B.** whereas the demonstrations were initially spurred by deep-seated grievances over the disastrous state of the country's economy, skyrocketing food prices, rising inflation and widespread corruption; whereas the Iranian regime has consistently failed to meet the basic needs of its population;
- C.** whereas the Iranian security forces, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and the police, have carried out a systematic violent nationwide crackdown on protesters using lethal force enabled by Chinese equipment and surveillance technology, murdering and detaining thousands of peaceful demonstrators; whereas there are reports that Iranian security forces have used chemical weapons to suppress the protests (Renew B); whereas the number of persons killed is likely to rise further as communication was delayed due to the internet blackout; whereas according to the UN Fact-Finding Mission there are credible information indicating that the Supreme National Security Council issued a statement ordering the security forces to wage a "decisive" crackdown to end the protests; whereas according to the UN Fact-Finding Mission state violence was particularly brutal in ethnic minority regions; whereas Iranian authorities have carried out mass arbitrary arrests, detaining thousands of protesters, activists, journalists and human rights defenders, without due process and on the basis of false national security charges; whereas the Iranian judiciary has accelerated summary proceedings against detained protesters in unfair trials, and has imposed the death penalty; whereas during the protests the Iranian judiciary carried out death sentences based on prior convictions;

- D.** whereas these actions constitute serious violations of international human rights law, including obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a State Party;
- E.** whereas Iran continues to apply the death penalty as a key instrument of repression to intimidate protesters and silence dissent;
- F.** whereas since January 8, 2026 the Iranian authorities have imposed a country-wide communications blackout, cutting off internet access, shutting down mobile phone networks and landlines in one of the deepest and most sophisticated blackouts in global history; hindering Iranians' ability to communicate, organise and inform the outside world amid a brutal crackdown, with the aim to obscure the true extent of the protests, the brutality of the crackdown and to undermine medical assistance; whereas Iran is a major perpetrator of internet shutdowns and has a long history of blocking internet and telecommunication access during times of unrest to silence dissent and crack down on protests;
- G.** whereas the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association is protected by article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- H.** whereas the regime's leadership continues to be oblivious to the legitimate demands of the protesters; whereas nearly 60% of Iran's population is below the age of 39 years, according to the United Nations Statics Divisions and most of the population was born after the 1979 Islamic Revolution;
- I.** whereas the Iranian authorities have publicly threatened to further crack down on the protests and harshly punish those involved; whereas on 14 January 2026 Iran's Justice Minister reportedly stated that anyone arrested after 8 January was a criminal and terrorist, effectively criminalising peaceful protest and further repressing freedom of expression and assembly; whereas the European Parliament has consistently and unequivocally condemned the Iranian regime's oppression and violence against its own people, including the use of executions, the upholding of death sentences following unfair trials, inhumane detention conditions, the systematic targeting of political activists and of the ethnic and religious communities; whereas the European Parliament has repeatedly called for the designation of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist organisation;
- J.** whereas seven UN Human Rights Experts called upon the Iranian authorities to break the cycle of violence, respect the people's fundamental right to be able to voice dissent and participate in peaceful protest without fear of

reprisals, and address the people's demands regarding civil, political, economic and cultural rights;

- K.** whereas the recent wave of demonstrations is the culmination of a long series of mass protests followed by terrible crackdowns; whereas Iran's last nationwide uprisings –the “Green Movement” upheaval in 2009 and the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement of September 2022, sparked by the killing of 22-year-old Jina Mahsa Amini by the country's morality police - was also met with a brutal repression, which was targeting women with shotgun fire to their faces, breasts and genitals;
- L.** whereas the European Parliament's 2023 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought was awarded to Jina Mahsa Amini and the Woman, Life, Freedom movement in Iran as a tribute to all the brave women, men and young people in Iran, who under enormous pressure keep up their fight for their rights and for change;
- M.** whereas state policies have enabled the routine enforcement of mandatory dress regulations through morality patrols, surveillance technologies and administrative penalties, resulting in arrests, fines, denial of access to education and employment, and custodial sentences for women and girls who do not comply, with documented cases of physical abuse and deaths in custody linked to such enforcement; whereas the immense courage and resolve of the brave women of Iran have been crucial to the resistance against this brutal regime, meeting its cowardly tactics with fearlessness and defiance;
- N.** whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran has played a highly destabilising role within the Middle East and the broader region, including by propping up terrorist proxy groups as Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, Hamas in Gaza and Shia militias in Iraq, and establishing an axis of terror stretching through the entire region; whereas Iran's pernicious influence is not limited to the Middle East, as it continues to pose an enormous risk for European security and democracies around the world through hybrid threats and malignous cyber activities, amongst others by abetting Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine, for example by supplying armed drones, missiles and ammunition and providing technology and training that has allowed Russia to ramp up its production, and supporting the Venezuelan dictatorship;
- O.** whereas credible evidence indicates that Iranian diplomatic missions in several Member States have been involved in propaganda, disinformation and intimidation targeting Iranian diaspora communities in Europe,

breaching international law and the principles governing diplomatic relations;

- P.** whereas the EU has adopted three sanctions regimes against Iran: one in response to serious human rights violations in the country which are renewed annually and were last extended until 13 April 2026, one in relation to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the third in response to Iran's military support to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and to armed groups and entities in the Middle East and the Red Sea region; whereas via these regimes more than 230 individuals and 40 entities in Iran, including the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) are currently under sanctions;
- Q.** whereas, in January 2026 the European Parliament, through a decision by its President, prohibited all diplomatic staff and representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran from entering any European Parliament premises in Brussels, Strasbourg and Luxembourg in response to the Iranian authorities' violent crackdown on nationwide protests and their refusal to respect fundamental freedoms, with Iranian passport holders subject to screening and denial of entry if identified as acting on behalf of the regime;
- R.** whereas in the past couple of years Iranian authorities intensified the persecution and punishment of ethnic and religious communities, notably the Christians, with national courts handing down lengthy prison sentences on charges related solely to their faith or religious activities;
1. Expresses its unequivocal condemnation of and outrage at the brutal repression and mass murders perpetrated by the Iranian regime against protesters who have taken to the streets over the past two weeks in dozens of cities; expresses its full solidarity with the people of Iran and its brave and legitimate protest movement demanding dignity, safety and the respect for their rights;
 2. Unconditionally demands that the Iranian authorities, under the rule of dictator Ali Khamenei, end the use of violence against peaceful protesters, immediately halt all executions and cease the murder and repression of civilians exercising their fundamental rights; demands that these rights, in particular freedom of expression and assembly be upheld unconditionally and at all times;
 3. Calls for the immediate release of all imprisoned demonstrators and political prisoners; is appalled by the horrifically high death toll and the large number of protesters unlawfully detained;

4. Extends its heartfelt condolences to the families of all those who have been killed as a result of the violent repression by the Iranian authorities; expresses profound indignation at reports of attacks and intimidation raids carried out by security oppressive forces and members of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards against the families and relatives of those killed during the protests; is deeply concerned about the reported abhorrent practice by the Iranian authorities of extorting families of victims by demanding large sums of money in return for the bodies of their deceased relatives;
5. Calls on the Council, in accordance with Common Position 2001/931/CFSP, Council Regulation (EC) No 2580/2001, Directive (EU) 2017/541 and the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime, to proceed without delay with the full designation of the IRGC, including the Basij militia and the Quds Force, as terrorist organisations; deplores the still-reluctant attitude of those Member States that continue to oppose strengthening restrictive measures against Iran's regime; urges that such designation be reflected in the Union's restrictive measures regime; calls for the expansion and strict enforcement of the EU Global Human Rights Sanctions Regime and other EU restrictive measures, including asset freezes and visa bans, against all Iranian officials responsible for repression as well as entities under the control of, or acting on behalf of, the Office of the Supreme Leader (Beit-e Rahbari); including the placement of all relevant IRGC components and individuals on the EU terrorist list and the application of asset freezes, travel bans and other appropriate restrictive measures; emphasises that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), including all its branches and affiliated entities, plays a central role in the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators, serious human rights violations, extrajudicial killings, and state-sponsored terrorism, both domestically and regionally; calls on Member States to simultaneously take all appropriate national measures, to ensure full implementation and enforcement of this designation; pays tribute to and expresses its strong support for the courageous Iranian people who, for weeks, have taken to the streets to protest against the oppression of the regime and the extremely difficult economic and social conditions; commends the courage of the many young people, women and human rights defenders who continue to fight for their rights despite the personal repercussions and brutal repression they face; recognises the crucial role played by the "Women, Life, Freedom" movement in instilling courage in the population and protesters and in exposing the regime's weakness and detachment from its people; condemns the sanctions imposed by the Iranian authorities against Members of the European Parliament and of National Parliaments and calls for their immediate lifting;

6. Strongly condemns the widespread, brutal, intentional and disproportionate use of force by Iranian security forces against peaceful protesters; deplors that these killings are not the result of sporadic clashes but of a widespread and systematic policy and a premeditated decision to eliminate the core of resistance and protest; is alarmed that the murdering of thousands of protesters signals a chilling shift in Iranian regime's suppression from deterrence to strategic elimination; calls on EU Member States to hold Iranian officials who are proven to be directly involved in the ongoing repression accountable for their crimes under international law; calls on the EU and its Member States to prepare for all possible scenarios, including a potential collapse of the Iranian regime, and to ensure that no perpetrator of repression is granted asylum within the territory of the Union at any time;
7. Demands that all protesters, human rights defenders and journalists currently held under arrest in Iran are freed unconditionally; demands that the authorities inform all families of the location of their detained relatives and calls for granting unhindered access for lawyers and international observers to all those detained during the protests and for providing identity of the detainees to the international community; calls for the immediate release and safe repatriation of all EU nationals currently imprisoned in Iran and strongly condemns the regime's shameless use of hostage diplomacy;
8. Categorically rejects accusations by Iranian authorities blaming foreign agents as instigators of the protests; notes that the protests stem from the profound discontent of large segments of the Iranian population, particularly youth, women, and minority groups, with the deep and multiple crises facing the country;
9. Recalls Iran's international human rights obligations, including the respect for the right to peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and the right to life, as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international treaties to which Iran is a party; Calls on the EU to further support civil society, human rights and humanitarian organisations in Iran;
10. Stresses the deeply illegitimate and violent nature of the inhumane Iranian regime, which revolves solely around terror, fear and intimidation and is opposed to any religious, cultural and ethnic pluralism; calls on the Commission and the Member States to exert effective pressure on the regime and recognises in the vast wave of protests the unequivocal sign of the unsustainability of this system after decades of oppression and calls for a free and democratic transition in Iran; extends its full solidarity to the Iranian diaspora, which plays a crucial role in demanding freedom and

democracy and supporting the protests; recognises the Iranian people as the sole legitimate source of authority and sovereignty in Iran;

11. Calls for these measures to be coordinated with like-minded partners, accompanied by efforts to counter sanctions circumvention globally; welcomes recent targeted sanctions adopted by the United States against senior Iranian officials responsible for repression and urges the EU to take similar action; calls for the expulsion of IRGC-related family members studying or working in the EU;
12. Calls on the EU and its Member States to use all tools at their disposal to prevent, deter and respond to malicious cyber activities and foreign information manipulation and interference (FIMI), including those from or attributed to the Iranian authorities; encourages the full use of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, including restrictive measures against individuals and entities responsible for cyber-attacks, as well as the EU sanctions regime targeting cyber-attacks; urges the Union to reinforce its strategic communication, resilience-building and attribution capabilities, in coordination with international partners;
13. Condemns the Iranian regime's efforts to censor the protests by cutting internet access and telephone networks across the country; calls for all bans on online-based communications and services within Iran to be lifted immediately; calls on the EU and its Member States to significantly scale up technical and financial support for secure digital access, censorship-circumvention tools and digital protection for Iranian civil society, journalists and human rights defenders; calls on technology and satellite service providers, to explore all lawful and feasible means to facilitate safe access to communication services, such as "Direct to Cell" connectivity, to ensure uninterrupted information access, particularly in order to enable emergency communication and alerts via SMS, for Iranian citizens and to prevent the misuse of platforms for repression;
14. Highlights how over the decades the Iranian regime has persistently engaged in the systematic targeting of human rights activists, political dissidents, communities and women in particular through vicious patterns of repression; expresses solidarity with all individuals in Iran persecuted for their beliefs or identities and recognises the courage of minority communities facing systemic discrimination, including Kurds, Baluchis, Baha'is and Christians; calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all persons detained solely for exercising their freedom of religion or belief;

15. Reiterates its calls on Iran to grant immediate and unhindered access to the UN-mandated Fact-Finding Mission, given that the climate of total impunity by which Iranian authorities have systematically committed serious crimes under international law, including murder, torture, rape, and enforced disappearances to silence dissent, require international scrutiny and the collection and preservation of evidence to support future prosecutions (Greens 7; S&D 29); calls on the EU to support the extension of the mandate of the UN fact finding mission on Iran in the HRC and enlarge its mandate to the investigation of the current atrocities;
16. Notes the prominent role of women and girls in the protests and condemns the regime's systemic oppression of women and other vulnerable groups through laws and regulations that severely restrict freedoms and rights, including the degrading compulsory hijab law and its abusive enforcement, severe restrictions on women's sexual and reproductive health and violations of women's political, social, economic, cultural and personal rights; stresses that inheritance discrimination, testimony and nationality laws, which grant women unequal legal status and limit their autonomy in both public and private life are contrary to international human rights standards to which Iran is bound;
17. Decries once again the appallingly high number of executions carried out in the past two years, and specifically since the outbreak of the recent demonstrations in late December, as a symbol of the regime's utter disregard for human life and dignity;
18. Recalls that Iran has the highest death sentence rate per capita in the world and since the Women, Life, Freedom uprising in 2022, the Iranian authorities have embarked on a relentless execution spree, including against dissidents, women, journalists and minorities; decries that in 2025 alone the regime has executed 1.500 people; reiterates the EU's long-standing opposition to capital punishment and calls for the immediate abolition of the death penalty;
19. Expresses its full support for the Iranian opposition and invites the High Representative/Vice-President (HRVP) to initiate an inclusive dialogue with the Iranian democratic opposition, with the aim of supporting the emergence of a democratic, free and pluralistic future for Iran; calls to invite representatives of the Iranian democratic opposition to the European Parliament, while reiterating that it is up to the Iranian people to determine their future Government; encourages the Commission to expand technical and financial assistance for Iranian civil society; calls for the different actors in the democratic opposition to work together, paving the way for a just, inclusive and democratic process that succeeds in bringing freedom and

dignity of all Iranian citizens independently of their ethnicity, religion and gender; calls on the EU and its Member States to closely coordinate with like-minded partners in order to support a free Iran in which universal human rights and equality prevail, shaped by the Iranian people themselves; is convinced that promoting the country's diverse communities and fundamental regional, cultural and ethnic diversity can constitute an added value for any prospect of democratic and peaceful future for Iran; underlines once again how the Iranian regime has actively sown chaos and destruction across the region for decades, while engaging in brutal patterns of internal and transnational repression; condemns the Iranian authorities' brutal use of transnational repression, both online and offline, to silence, intimidate, repress, coerce, or even abduct opponents as well as threatening their families abroad; calls on the European Commission, in close cooperation with Member States, to strengthen prevention, protection and response mechanisms within the Union, and to ensure that all acts of transnational repression are effectively investigated and prosecuted (Greens 21); stresses that Iran continues to constitute the largest and most substantial threat to the security and stability of the broader region and the most significant obstacle for peace; reiterates its firm condemnation of Iran's malign activities and interference across the region and beyond, most prominently in Lebanon, Syria, Yemen, Iraq and the West Bank and Gaza;

20. Notes that Iran and Russia have increasingly shared critical intelligence and cooperated to evade sanctions through front companies, banking links and oil transfers with tracking devices turned off; calls for improved enforcement of EU sanctions, an urgent upgrade of automatic identification systems to counter sanctions and embargo evasion, and increased surveillance and inspections of suspected Iranian vessels;
21. Calls on the HR/VP, in coordination with Member States, to intensify diplomatic engagement in support of the Iranian people by exploring the establishment of enhanced EU diplomatic presence or representation capable of providing protection, humanitarian assistance and consular support to individuals at risk for exercising their fundamental rights, including peaceful protesters; stresses the need to consider measures that could provide points of refuge, information, and assistance in line with international law and relevant precedents of EU Member States, with the objective of improving the Union's capacity to monitor, report and respond to serious human rights violations on the ground;
22. Welcomes the High Representative/Vice-President (HRVP)'s commitment to implement further coercive measures against Iran; calls on the Council and the Member States to swiftly expand existing restrictive measures in

order to respond adequately and urgently to the ongoing repression; welcomes that the EU is considering targeted sanctions against individuals and entities responsible for the violent repression of protesters and urges their swift adoption;

23. Demands the European External Action Service to produce regular reports about the situation in Iran; suggests establishing or identifying a domain to register the names of all victims of the recent massacres, in order to document and preserve records of those killed or harmed;
24. Calls on EU Member States and the EEAS to request a Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council on the human rights crisis in Iran to demonstrate and foster legitimate international opposition to the conduct of the Iranian regime;
25. Calls on the Commission and Member States to support all accountability efforts within and outside the United Nations that work towards the documentation of death and their prompt, independent and transparent investigation, including through the collection of testimonies and evidence from people fleeing the country; welcomes UN Human Rights Council's decision to hold a special session on the situation in Iran;
26. Stresses that any normalisation of relations with Iran can only take place following the unconditional release of all political prisoners, the verifiable end of systematic repression and genuine progress towards democracy and the rule of law;
27. Calls on the European External Action Service, the Commission and the Member States to continue to consistently raise the violations at the hands of the Iranian regime in bilateral and multilateral fora and to ensure that EU restrictive measures remain targeted, evidence-based and focused on individuals and entities responsible for serious human rights abuses;
28. Welcomes the decision by its President Roberta Metsola to bar all diplomatic staff and representatives of the Iranian regime from all European Parliament premises; calls on its Member States to follow suit and adopt similar restrictions, including revoking, if needed, diplomatic status vis-à-vis personnel of Iran's diplomatic and consular missions across the EU;
29. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the VP/HR, the Member States, and the Office of the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.