



From Peaceful Protest

to Riot, Sedition, and Terrorist Actions

(Operation Day Thirteen)

As Narrated by Documents and Images

January 2026

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Deputy for Legal and International Affairs

In the Name of God

From Peaceful Protest to Riot, Sedition,
and
Terrorist Actions

(Operation Day Thirteenth)
(As Narrated by Documents and Images)

January 2026

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Deputy for Legal and International Affairs

Contents

Introduction.....	7
A Legal Perspective on how Peaceful Demonstrations were diverted to Organized Riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran.....	8
Non_paper Regarding the Ongoing Unrest in the Islamic Republic of Iran.....	40
Remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Meeting with Heads of Foreign Diplomatic Missions and Representatives of UN Agencies in Tehran.....	46
Letter by Iran's Foreign Minister to UN Secretary General.....	49
Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council.....	50
Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council.....	52
Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council.....	54
Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council.....	56
Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council.....	58
Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva to High Commissioner on Human Rights.....	60
Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Statement on Violence During Recent Riots in Iran and Foreign Interference.....	62
Statement by the GoF in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations on riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Foreign interference.....	63
Operation Day Thirteen.....	64
The Role of the United States and the Zionist Regime in the Escalation of Violence during the Recent Protests in the Islamic Republic of Iran.....	82
From Peaceful Protests to Riots and Violent and Terrorist acts	87
Extensive Presence of Terrorist Groups and the Discovery of Cold and Firearms.....	103
Attacks and Sabotages Against Religious Sites.....	114
Restrictions on International Internet and Social Media Access During Security Crises.....	126
Terrorists and Instigators, showed no mercy even to children and women.....	130
Terrorist Attacks Against Law Enforcement Forces.....	133
Attacks on Relief Workers, Medical Personnel, Healthcare Facilities, and Emergency Equipment.....	137
Statement of the National Security Council on the January 2026 Riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran.....	140
Pictorial Report of Damages Inflicted on Public Property During January 2026 Riots.....	142

Introduction

On Sunday, December 28, 2025 (corresponding to 7 Dey 1404 in the Iranian calendar), following an increase in the exchange rate, protest gatherings were formed by some shopkeepers in the Tehran market. These gatherings were motivated by economic reasons and in response to the negative effects of currency fluctuations on business activities and purchasing power. The main demand of the participants was the restoration of stability to the market and the adoption of effective measures to control fluctuations in this area. These gatherings were peaceful and demand-based from the outset. The protests turned into widespread violence and unrest due to foreign interference from 9 Dey (December 30) and a sudden, yet organized, escalation of violence and armed terrorist actions. This escalation fundamentally had no connection to the legitimate and economic demands of the initial protesters and was not endorsed or supported by the overwhelming majority of the people.

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes its commitment to the requirements of international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, regarding respect for and protection of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. These rights are guaranteed in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the domestic legal framework and are recognized as fundamental elements of public participation in social and economic affairs.

Just as the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself fully committed to protecting and safeguarding the right of its citizens to peaceful and lawful protest, it is equally obliged to prevent threats to security and public order. Accordingly, it must take necessary legal and preventive measures to confront any violence that endangers the lives, property, or psychological well-being of citizens and society.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in line with its inherent missions, and with the aim of timely clarification, defending the rights of the people, and preventing the dominance of deviant and incorrect narratives of the events of January 2026 in the country, has undertaken a series of enlightening measures. Sending official letters to international officials, preparing clarifying thematic reports on various aspects of the violence and terrorist actions during the period in question, and other diplomatic measures and initiatives are only part of the efforts undertaken by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the international arena, a glimpse of which has been gathered in this collection.

**Deputy for Legal and International Affairs,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

A Legal Perspective on how Peaceful Demonstrations were diverted to Organized Riots

in the
Islamic Republic of Iran



Contents

Introduction / 10

I. The right to peaceful assembly / 12

B. International human rights law / 12

C. Peaceful protests / 12

D. The government's duty to preserve and restore public order / 14

II. Acts of violence and vandalism disrupting peaceful protests / 16

A. / Attacks on medical facilities and ambulances / 16

B. Attacks on healthcare centers and relief warehouses / 17

C. Acts of sabotage against religious sites / 18

D. Attacks against schools and libraries / 19

E. Damage to public infrastructure / 19

III. Acts of terrorism / 22

A. Applicable International Law / 22

B. International reactions to similar incidents / 23

Case Study 1: The November 2015 Paris Attacks (Bataclan, Stade de France) / 23

Case Study 2: The March 2016 Brussels Attacks (Airport & Metro) / 23

Case Study 3: The June 2016 Atatürk Airport Attack, Istanbul / 23

Case Study 4: The August 2017 Barcelona Attack (Las Ramblas) / 23

Case Study 5: The April 2019 Easter Sunday Attacks, Sri Lanka / 24

C. Incidents of terrorist acts / 24

1. Attacks against the general public / 25

2. Targeting members of the law enforcement / 27

D. Financing of Terrorism / 29

UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001) / 29

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999) / 29

IV. Foreign interference / 30

V. Media used to instigate terrorism / 34

VI. Attacks against diplomatic and consular missions / 36

A. Inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises / 37

B. Duties of the receiving State / 37

Concluding remarks / 38

Introduction

The Islamic Republic of Iran has remained steadfast in its long-held foundations and values since its inception in 1979. Based upon the three pillars of honor, wisdom and expediency, Iran has maintained a policy of honorable mutual relations with other countries and continues to do so.

Throughout its history, however, Iran has not been spared from occasional plots of malevolent nature. Certain countries with empty hypocritical slogans have been particularly active in misusing any conceivable opportunity to defy the interests of the Iranian nation. Even long before the Iranian revolution in 1979, as the documents declassified by the US government in June 2017 confirm, the coup d'état of 19 August 1953 was co-devised and implemented by the US and UK in Iran against the then legitimate Iranian administration of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh, which beefed up the rule of the puppet monarch of Iran. Post-1979 too, from direct and indirect support to the Saddam's regime during its imposed war against Iran in the 80s through to the 12-day US-Israeli aggression and a multifaceted systematic and organized economic pressure via unilateral coercive measures are just part of their failed attempts aimed at undermining Iran's national security.

The unrests of January 2026 in Iran are the most recent failed plot co-devised and co-sponsored by the US and the Israeli regime which was implemented by their agents in Iran after pressurizing the country's economy through unprecedented economic sanctions and the resulting depreciation of the Iranian currency. This is not an assessment, but a declared policy of the US and its allies as evidenced most recently by the US Secretary of the Treasury, on the 21 January 2026, to the effect that sanctions "worked" [!] and that it was such unilateral coercive measures that brought people on the streets in Iran! This is how economic pressure resulted in peaceful protests and later set the grounds for acts of violence, vandalism and terrorism.

On Sunday, 28 December 2025 (corresponding to 7 Dey 1404), following an increase in foreign exchange rates, sector-based peaceful assemblies were formed by some traders in the Grand Bazaar in Tehran. These assemblies were motivated by economic concerns and were held in response to the negative effects of currency fluctuations on commercial activities, purchasing power, and economic security. The principal demand of the participants was the restoration of stability in the market and the adoption of effective measures to curb volatility in this sector. From the outset, these assemblies were peaceful in nature, and participants sought to express their demands in a calm environment.

A few days into the said protests, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran held talks with the representatives of the protesters to hear them directly. Meetings were held with the heads of chambers of guilds and commerce, as well as a number of economic actors with the presence of the President and some with Ministers of Commerce and Industry. As such, the guilds and economic actors articulated their concerns, the government listened, and in the first stage the protests began to subside, giving way to dialogue whereupon their voice was heard and certain orders were issued by the government to alleviate their legitimate concerns.

With the incitement and support of certain countries, their affiliated public figures and media, however, the protests were replaced with violent vandalism causing serious damage to the lives of citizens, members of the law enforcement as well as public property and buildings such as

police vehicles, fire engines, ambulances, mosques and other public property. While in some cases incendiary devices such as Molotov cocktails were used against law enforcement officers, further participation of certain terrorist cells in the riots led to the commission of serious crimes clearly falling outside the protective scope of peaceful assemblies under respective laws and regulations. Meanwhile, terrorist cells were activated and supported by certain countries including through terror-instigating media in pure defiance of well-established principles of international law.

According to the statement, of 22 January 2026, of the Iranian Council of National Security, the result of such ill-motivated sponsorship and direction was the martyrdom of 2427 innocent individuals and members of the law enforcement from the total number of 3117 casualties. Many of the innocent casualties were running their everyday errands, going to work or on their way back home and some were simply passers-by. In implementation of a strategy of deliberate victim-manufacturing, or better yet false-flag victimization, terrorists killed them to increase the number of the victims aimed at spreading terror among the citizens and provoking them against the government. These were carried out in tandem with vandalism leading to the partial or total incineration or destruction of the following: 304 ambulances and buses, 700 convenience stores, 750 banks, 600 ATMs, 200 schools, 15 libraries, 414 government buildings, 300 private homes, 800 private cars, 24 gas stations, 749 police stations, 120 Basij (vigilant security forces) centres, 350 mosques, 2 Armenian churches and 253 bus stations.

The relevant authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran exercised due diligence at all stages of the said unrest to provide the necessary grounds for peaceful assemblies, and at the same time to ensure protection of the lives of individuals and public and private property of the citizens through lawful means.

The present report aims at shedding light on some of the factual and legal aspects of the protests and the ensuing unrest created primarily by terrorists at the service and direction of US and Israeli regime's commanders. This is without prejudice to any later findings that may complement the same including through later updates.

I. The right to peaceful assembly

In any given society, citizens are free to peacefully protest against the decisions of their governors to exercise their constitutional rights aimed including at improving their well-being. Laws are therefore in place to secure this right. Evidently, this right cannot interfere with constitutional rights of other citizens such as the right to life. This double-pronged commitment lies on the shoulders of governments and their law enforcement.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is no exception in this regard. Iran is committed to respect and secure the right to assembly of its citizens and this is derived from its Constitution and relevant international human rights instruments briefly touched upon below.

A. Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Principle 27 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran provides for a robust foundation for the right to freedom of assembly. According to this provision, “establishment of gatherings and demonstrations, absent holding guns, if not contrary to the foundations of Islam, is free”.

The Guardian Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran is vested with the authority to examine the accordancy of enacted bills by the Iranian Parliament with the Constitution. This body has officially stated that exercise of the right to peaceful assembly as recognized in Article 27 of the Constitution would not require attainment of any authorization to be issued by relevant authorities.

Meanwhile, it goes without saying that the government is also committed to protect national security, public order, safety, health and morals as well as the rights and dignity of others. Thus, securing the correct, viable and genuinely legal exercise of the right to peaceful assembly under the Iranian Constitution requires lawful safeguards against any misbehavior originating from threats being posed to the very foundations of the Constitution.

B. International human rights law

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a party to several international human rights instruments and in accordance with its Constitution and national laws and legislations, has always respected its commitments to ensure and protect the rights of its citizens to peaceful assembly. Apart from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), in particular, provides for freedom of expression (Article 19) and the right to peaceful assembly (Article 21). Protecting the latter goes in tandem with ensuring and preserving security of the nation and public order including through temporarily derogating from certain obligations under the Covenant.

C. Peaceful protests

On Sunday, 28 December 2025, following an increase in the exchange rate, some shopkeepers in Tehran’s Grand Bazaar organized trade-related protests. From the outset, these assemblies were peaceful in nature, and participants sought to express their demands in a calm environment.



Owing their ears to the protesters amid groundbreaking corrective economic measures, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Ministers of Industry and Economy and other relevant authorities held meetings with the representatives of the guilds and the trade sector to hear their voice directly. Therefore, all the participants from the commerce sector articulated their concerns, the government listened, and in the first stage the protests began to subside, giving way to dialogue and issuance of certain orders with a view to alleviating their concerns.



From 8 January 2026 onward, however, protests were diverted to riots and acts of vandalism against the property of citizens including public and private. Thus, violent rioters hijacked livelihood-related public protests and diverted them from their original course which revealed the active role of the terrorists as well. The intensity of violence, the armed nature of the riots, the planned and premeditated terrorist attacks against security forces, destruction of governmental and other public and private buildings, medical, commercial, cultural and religious centres, as well as transportation facilities, among others, clearly indicated the existence of an organized and coordinated plan to create unrest and insecurity in the country.

It is worth noting the anti-Iranian statements issued on social media by former United States intelligence chief Mike Pompeo, who, at the outset of the peaceful assemblies, declared that the Iranian people were not alone and explicitly claimed the presence of Mossad agents among them. Consequently, it became evident that the legitimate protests of the Iranian people were intended to be deliberately hijacked and diverted from their original course, first into chaos and unrest and subsequently into a platform for the operational activities of terrorist groups.



D. The government's duty to preserve and restore public order

During the ensuing riots, numerous public and private properties were set on fire or looted. A considerable number of law enforcement personnel and ordinary citizens were killed or injured as a result of gunfire by rioters and the use of bladed weapons. Civil administrative centres and public service facilities—including banks, automated teller machines, ambulances, public transportation vehicles, police vehicles, fire engines, and religious sites— along with private properties and premises were destroyed or burned.

The criminal actions of the rioters, aimed at inflicting extensive damage on public and private property, constitute clear violations of the right to property, freedom of movement, safety and security, the right to work, physical and mental health, and the right to access public services. It is therefore evident that, under such circumstances, law enforcement officers are obligated, in the discharge of their legal duties, to take appropriate and lawful measures to preserve and ensure public safety, security, and order. It is self-evident that the use of weapons and terror-

inducing equipment, resorting to violence against the public and law enforcement officers, attacking public, governmental, and private property and facilities, and setting them ablaze do not constitute peaceful protest and give rise to legal responsibility. Under these conditions, the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran are legally mandated to restore public order and security for all citizens.

The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in addressing riots and threats against internal security is based on the minimum use of force. In the present situation, it was the rioters who, exploiting the restraint and tolerance exercised by the forces responsible for maintaining public order, resorted to maximum violence and escalated their actions into an armed and quasi-military phase.

In this context, from the moment terrorists began abusing the internet connection to coordinate their operations, the relevant authorities limited access to internet to prevent further action against national security and public order. It is needless to say that Article 29 (2) of the UDHR and Article 4 of the ICCPR provide for temporary restrictions on certain rights (including access to internet) in states of emergency.

While the law enforcement officers maintained maximum restraint in confronting vandals and terrorists, many of them sacrificed their lives for the safety and security of Iranian citizens. Special tribunals have been determined under relevant laws and regulations to ensure the fair trial of all those involved in the crimes committed and protection of the rights of those citizens who have lost their dear ones or have otherwise had their property damaged by acts of vandalism and terrorism throughout the unrest.

II. Acts of violence and vandalism disrupting peaceful protests

Protesters peacefully gathering at different spots in Iran calling for economic corrective measures by the government saw their right undermined and totally hijacked by vandals and terrorists mostly at the instigation of certain countries and their affiliated media. Certain individuals, some belonging to well-known terrorist groups and some under the guidance of terrorist elements, virtually all backed by the US and the Israeli regime resorted to severe acts of violence against ordinary citizens, employing cold weapons, firearms as well as incendiary materials.

This appeared quickly as a direct threat to the lives, property and security of the citizens from all walks of life. Roads were blocked, emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire trucks were hindered, public and private property was set on fire, public life was severely disrupted, and citizens were intimidated through vandalism of diverse kinds and depth. According to the statement, of 22 January 2026, of the Iranian Council of National Security, the result of these heinous acts was the partial or total incineration or destruction of the following: 304 ambulances and buses, 700 convenience stores, 750 banks, 600 ATMs, 200 schools, 15 libraries, 414 government buildings, 300 private homes, 800 private cars, 24 gas stations, 749 police stations, 120 Basij (vigilant security forces) centres, 350 mosques, 2 Armenian churches and 253 bus stations.

In this section, a glimpse is given at some instances of acts of vandalism and destruction of property perpetrated in January 2026 in Iran.

A. Attacks on medical facilities and ambulances

Trained rioters deliberately and systematically attacked ambulances to obstruct relief efforts and increase human casualties. According to preliminary reports, which are still in the process of completion, more than 180 ambulances nationwide were attacked by rioters. A large number of these ambulances were utterly destroyed, set on fire, and rendered unusable.

In some cases, ambulances were attacked while in service; these occurred in cities including Tehran, Baharestan, Anbarabad, Neka, Iranshahr, Shemsh-Abad, Kashmar, Khomein, and Tehran, often resulting in injuries to medical staff; in Tehran, two ambulances were stopped on Piroozi and Shahrn streets before the patients were forced out the vehicle were set on fire.

In Tehran alone 54 ambulances were completely destroyed while in Mashhad one ambulance was incinerated and taken out of service and 8 others sustained 20% to 30% damage;



An ambulance set on fire by the terrorists while in service.

B. Attacks on healthcare centers and relief warehouses

A number of healthcare centers, including hospitals, clinics, emergency and Red Crescent buildings were attacked and vandalized. The destruction significantly impaired the Red Crescent's capacity to provide emergency services. Notable cases include the following:

In Tehran, Sina Hospital was attacked, with rioters throwing tear gas into the hospital premises. Imam Khomeini Hospital, specifically the emergency ward in the Malekshahi district of Ilam, was attacked and damaged;

Red Crescent buildings and equipment in Tehran, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Kerman, Markazi, East Azerbaijan, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad were severely damaged. In Izeh, the Red Crescent relief warehouse, a vital northeast provincial hub and a support warehouse for Khuzestan, was set on fire and utterly incinerated; the destruction was so severe that all relief vehicles and search-and-rescue equipment were destroyed;



Several fire trucks destroyed by terrorists

C. Acts of sabotage against religious sites

According to latest reports, 350 mosques and worshiping centres (including two Armenian churches) were subject to acts of sabotage and vandalism. In some cases, mosques were set on fire during working hours which resulted in the death of civilians.

The scale of violence and destruction of public religious property, as well as activities such as burning the Holy Quran, indicates the cruelty and violence of the perpetrators.

As an example, based on preliminary reports, in Guilan Province in northern Iran, in addition to the attack on, and complete destruction of, a religious center in the city of Rasht, a mosque was also attacked by rioters and sustained extensive damage.



Inside view of the Grand Mosque in Sarableh, Ilam province, carpets and other facilities burned to ashes



Al-Rasoul Mosque in Tehran, set ablaze by terrorists

D. Attacks against schools and libraries

During the unrest in January 2026, 200 schools were subject to violent vandalism. According to the announcement by the Minister of Education, a number of these schools sustained serious damage and require extensive repairs. 15 libraries were also attacked leading to their partial and total destruction.

Choosing schools and libraries as targets of vandalism is reminiscent of destruction of schools and classrooms by the ISIS during the 2010s!

E. Damage to public infrastructure

Apart from 300 private homes and 800 private cars destroyed, latest updates suggest that on 8 and 9 January 2026, attacks were carried out on 414 governmental buildings. Other damaged properties include 700 convenience stores, 750 banks, 600 ATMs, 24 gas stations and 253 bus stations.



According to the Tehran Fire Department, on the evenings of 8 and 9 January 2026, 450 firefighting operations were carried out, 26 residential homes belonging to ordinary citizens were set on fire and 40 banks, 15 commercial complexes, 13 government centers, and 50 fire engines were either destroyed or sustained very severe damage.

In Shiraz, Fars Province in southern Iran, over the two nights of riots on Thursday and Friday, 8 and 9 January 2026, two municipal buildings, four banks, two mosques, one building of the Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, 83 bus stations, and hundreds of urban and traffic sign posts were either set on fire or completely destroyed by rioters.



Public and private property was damaged by the vandals.

Based on preliminary reports published in Guilan Province in northern Iran, in the city of Rasht, approximately 200 shops were set on fire. Organized attacks on government buildings, medical centers, banks, ATMs, and urban public infrastructure such as bus stations, among others, were also carried out in the city of Rasht on Thursday and Friday, 8 and 9 January.

According to official reports, yet to be updated, state, public, and private property across Khorasan Razavi Province were destroyed on January 8 and 9, 2026. 27 public and private banks were totally destroyed including 24 in Mashhad and 3 in other counties across the province; 45 banks sustained damage (including to their door, windows, ATMs and CCTV cameras). Additionally, one “Shahr-Net” (automated digital booth) and one Shahr Bank kiosk were damaged. Forced entry and looting was reported also at the Water, Electricity, and Telecommunications Infrastructure of the province with considerable destruction of the Mashhad Water and Sanitation Administration building; the administrative offices and equipment of the Water Supply Building were attacked and destroyed by Molotov cocktails.

Multiple water pumping stations also sustained damage. Electricity Distribution Office at the 7th District (Madar Square, Mashhad) was attacked and two service vehicles were destroyed; an aerial electricity transformer in Torbat-e Heydarieh, the Neyshabur Electricity Management building, major Irancell sites in the province, including 3 sites within the city of Mashhad, as well as 9 telecommunication cross-connect cabinets (KV) across the province were also destroyed; ordinary stores were not spared either: 55 branches of Ofoq Kourosh retail stores across Khorasan Razavi Province were attacked and looted. 6 public transport buses were also set to fire in Mashhad Municipality.

III. Acts of terrorism

During the unrests, terrorists used probably their long-sought opportunity to implement their organized premeditated plans to instigated terror among the public and resort to violent acts of terrorism. In particular following the post of the US President on X on 2 January 2026 claiming that the US is “locked and loaded”, many ordinary citizens and members of the law-enforcement were killed. Some were running their everyday errands, going to work or on their way back home and some were simply passers-by. Terrorists killed them to increase the number of the victims aimed at spreading terror among the citizens and provoking them against the government. According to the statement, of 22 January 2026, of the Iranian Council of National Security, the result of such a deliberate victim-manufacturing, or better yet false-flag victimization strategy, was the martyrdom of 2427 innocent individuals and members of the law enforcement from the total number of 3117 casualties.

Apart from targeting ordinary people on a random basis, other salient features of the acts committed include using ordinary citizens, in particular, women and teenagers, as a cover and employing a particular *modus operandi* similar to those used by ISIS including decapitation and burning victims alive. All these were carried out in tandem with deliberate wanton destruction of public and private property that was again peculiar to horrendous crimes committed by the ISIS.

Therefore, many of the acts committed during the unrest were either terrorist in nature or perpetrated by terrorist cells. The applicable law for terrorist acts and similar incidents in the past are briefly touched upon in this chapter.

A. Applicable International Law

The international community has long sought to harmonize a legal basis to define and counter terrorism. The result of such efforts has been resolutions galore describing what constitutes the physical and mental element of an act of terrorism despite differences in details. A consensus-based definition of terrorism is therefore reproduced below:

“Any act intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act”.

By way of further reference, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1566 (2004), while condemning all forms of terrorism, emphasizes the duty of States to prevent criminal acts, including those against civilians, carried out with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or to take hostages, by provoking a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons.

Security Council Resolution 1624 (2005) obligates states to take the necessary measures to prevent terrorist propaganda. According to its first paragraph, any incitement to commit terrorist acts is prohibited, and governments are called upon to actively monitor all educational institutions, information sources, and media against terrorist propaganda. A good number of General Assembly Resolutions also urge States to take steps to prevent and counter incitement to terrorist acts.

The Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/77/298), for its part, urges Member States to ensure no tolerance for terrorism regardless of targets or motives directed against members of religious and other communities in various parts of the world and highlights deep concern about targeting cultural property, including religious sites and ritual objects by terrorists.

B. International reactions to similar incidents

The UN Security Council designates specific violent incidents as terrorist acts based on their inherent nature and purpose. The defining criterion is not merely the violence itself, but its deliberate design to terrorize the civilian population and create a pervasive climate of fear. This is reflected in the consistent language used in Security Council Press Statements condemning such attacks.

The following case studies demonstrate this central theme of public intimidation:

Case Study 1: The November 2015 Paris Attacks (Bataclan, Stade de France)

- **Incident:** Coordinated suicide bombings and mass shootings at a concert hall, stadium, and cafes.

- **SC Condemnation:** Press Statement SC/12131 (14 Nov 2015).

- **The Core of Terror:** The Council condemned these as attacks on everyday social life—entertainment, sports, and public gatherings. By targeting venues synonymous with civilian leisure and community, the primary purpose was to shatter the sense of safety in public spaces and inflict psychological trauma on a mass scale.

Case Study 2: The March 2016 Brussels Attacks (Airport & Metro)

- **Incident:** Coordinated suicide bombings at an international airport and a central metro station.

- **SC Condemnation:** Press Statement SC/12295 (22 Mar 2016).

- **The Core of Terror:** The attacks targeted critical civilian transport infrastructure, aiming to paralyze public movement and create mass panic. Striking at hubs of daily commute and travel sends a deliberate message that nowhere in public life is safe, weaponizing ordinary routines against the population.

Case Study 3: The June 2016 Atatürk Airport Attack, Istanbul

- **Incident:** Suicide attack at the international terminal of a major airport.

- **SC Condemnation:** Press Statement SC/12432 (29 Jun 2016).

- **The Core of Terror:** An airport symbolizes openness and connection. Attacking it is a direct assault on these ideals, designed to instill dread at points of transit and foster a global atmosphere of suspicion and fear among traveling civilians.

Case Study 4: The August 2017 Barcelona Attack (Las Ramblas)

- **Incident:** A van deliberately driven into pedestrians on a famous, crowded promenade.

- **SC Condemnation:** Press Statement SC/12948 (18 Aug 2017).

- **The Core of Terror:** This attack transformed an open, vibrant public walkway into a killing zone. The use of a simple vehicle as a weapon was intended to demonstrate that any crowded civilian space is vulnerable, thereby eroding the fundamental feeling of security in urban life and creating lasting public anxiety.

Case Study 5: The April 2019 Easter Sunday Attacks, Sri Lanka

- **Incident:** Coordinated suicide bombings targeting churches and hotels during Easter celebrations.

- **SC Condemnation:** Press Statement SC/13781 (22 Apr 2019).

- **The Core of Terror:** Targeting worshippers during a sacred religious holiday and tourists in hotels strikes at communities in moments of peace, faith, and fellowship. The goal is to profane spaces of sanctuary and community, using the violation of these protected moments to amplify trauma and fear within specific communities and beyond.

The violence designed to terrorize the public (as seen in the case studies) cannot occur without resources. Therefore, by legally compelling states to dismantle the financial networks of terrorists, the international community targets the operational backbone of the terror campaign against civilians.

The Security Council's previous statements highlight that terrorism, as an international concern, is fundamentally characterized by violence calculated to coerce, intimidate, and terrorize the general public. The chosen targets—public squares, transport hubs, places of worship, and cultural venues—are selected not for military value, but for their symbolic role in civilian life, aiming to weaponize everyday existence and replace normalcy with pervasive fear.

It is precisely this *mens rea*—this clear intent to intimidate—that, alongside the violent acts (*actus reus*), leads to their designation as terrorist. Many of the violent acts perpetrated on 8 and 9 January 2026 are considered terrorism not solely because of their physical effect, but because their purpose is explicitly to sow terror among the population, a criterion central to both legal definitions and the Security Council's precedent.

This intent transforms statistical casualties into profound human tragedies, embodying the ultimate cost of terrorism. Behind each incident are names, stories, and irreplaceable losses.

C. Incidents of terrorist acts

During the recent unrest, as the peaceful protests were deliberately diverted to organized violence and terrorist acts by certain elements, Iran's law enforcement and security forces tried to restore public order and security in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

The criminal acts committed against ordinary citizens as well as security and law enforcement officers were aimed at "intimidating the public" advancing a political cause. Therefore, the acts fall squarely within the ambit of the definition of terrorism.

Some of the acts were so violent that resembled those committed by ISIS in terms of *actus reus* (e.g. including burning alive or beheading) and led to the martyrdom of a large number of law enforcement forces, and a considerable number of ordinary people who were present on the streets, including women and children, passers-by, businessmen, and vehicle drivers, as well as participants in the protests. In some of these crimes, various types of firearms and cold weapons, homemade explosives, machetes, axes, knives, and carpet-cutting razors were used by the terrorists.

Indeed, before, during and after the unrests, some terrorist cells and networks were detected and arrested by the Iranian law enforcement and their weapons were seized. As a few instances, in Tehran, Zahedan, Kerman, Kermanshah, and West Azerbaijan, terrorist cells and networks were detected and arrested who, among others, provided and distributed firearms, explosive

devices, materials for making bombs. In Khorramabad, too, a 5-member terrorist band was detected stocking weaponry including Kalashnikov and war munitions. In many of the cases detected thus far, instructions and linkage with foreign intelligence services including the Mossad have been proved beyond doubt.

1. Attacks against the general public

Ordinary citizens were ruthlessly targeted by terrorists on a random basis to instill fear among the public. This resulted in the tragic loss of the lives of hundreds of Iranians occurring either in the course of their daily routines or while participating in peaceful protests. A few examples are given below.



Bahar Seifi

The youngest victim of terrorist acts of 8 and 9 January 2026 in Iran, the 2-year-old Bahar from Neyshabur, Khorasan Razavi Province, lost her life with the terrorists' bullet in her head at the front door of her house after returning from her granddad's house with her family on the evening of 9 January 2026.



Melina Assadi

On the evening of 8 January 2026, 3-year-old Melina Assadi left her home in Kermanshah with her father to purchase infant formula and cold medicine from a pharmacy. On their way back home, she was suddenly struck from behind by gunfire and lost her life.

Melina Assadi, 3-year-old girl shot dead on her way to pharmacy with his father in Kermanshah on 8 January 2026



Anila Aboutalebi

Anila was an 8-year-old child from Isfahan who, during the recent disturbances, went out shopping with her family and was fatally struck by gunfire in the abdomen, chin, and back of the head by rioters. Forensic evidence indicates that the bullets were Israeli military-grade bullets.

Anila Aboutalebi, an 8-year-old girl shot in the abdomen, in the chin and back of her head on her way to to buy Ice-cream. The autopsy's report: shot by bullets made in the Israeli regime!

Ali Akbar Zarei

Ali was an 18-year-old boy who entered the Seyed al-Shohada Mosque in Pakdasht during its deliberate arson to rescue fellow citizens. After saving several individuals trapped inside, he became engulfed in flames and lost his life in the fire ignited by terrorists. An image of his bravery remains imprinted on the charred mosque carpet.

Ilya Alikhani

A 17-year-old student from Borujen in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province. Ilya lost his life due to an attack by terrorists.

Elham Zeinali

A dedicated nurse at Imam Ali Hospital in Kermanshah, Elham was on her way to hospital for her night shift when she came under terrorist gunfire and lost her life.

Marzieh Rezaei

A 41-year-old woman, Marzieh was targeted by terrorists in Hamadan as she and her husband were leaving a pharmacy. She left behind a 14-year-old son.

Marzieh Nabavi Nia

Marzieh, a 34-year-old nurse from Lahijan, worked at the Imam Sajjad Clinic in Rasht. On 8 January 2026, while assisting patients, she refused to abandon those under her care, including those receiving IV treatment, even after terrorists set the clinic ablaze. After evacuating the final patient, she was trapped by the flames and martyred in the nurses' room. Marzieh had a 3-year-old daughter.

Marziyeh Nabavizadeh

A nurse and mother of a three-year-old child, Marziyeh lost her life after sustaining severe burns when terrorists set fire to Imam Sajjad Clinic in Rasht.

Amir-Ali Latifi

A volunteer relief worker for the Red Crescent in Rasht, Amir-Ali Latifi was targeted by terrorists.

2. Targeting members of the law enforcement

Once peaceful protests were diverted to riots, members of the Iranian law enforcement made their best endeavors to demonstrate maximum restraint even in the face of violent rioters. When terrorists came in, they fell victim to violent terrorist acts themselves. Below are a few of the hundreds of police and security officers who were directly targeted by terrorists.

Ghodratollah Monjazab

A 65-year-old veteran and member of the police forces, Ghodratollah was stabbed multiple times by the terrorists' knife in Marvdasht, Fars Province.

Qasem Azizi

In an ISIS-style operation, Qasem was only 25-year-old member of the law enforcement, in a two-month engagement, when he was stabbed by knife, had his throat cut, fastened to the electricity post and burned.



Armed terrorists shooting directly at members of the public and the law enforcement.

In Lorestan Province, Hadi Zamani, Kazem Koushki, and Seyyed Mohammadjavad Monavvar were martyred by terrorists in Boroujerd and in Khorramabad, Mostafa Beiranvand was directly targeted by the terrorists during the riots of January 2026.

In Khorasan Razavi Province, in Mashhad, Farajollah Shoushtari, Hamid Yousefinezhad and Hadi Yazdani, members of the law enforcement were brutally martyred by terrorists.

In Kalaleh, in Golestan Province, Alireza Sharafimanesh, father of a primary school student, was brutally martyred by the terrorists on 8 January 2026.

Some of the members of the law enforcement targeted by terrorists during the unrests of 8 and 9 January 2026.



Some of the many weapons seized from the terrorists. They were used to directly target members of the public as well as the law enforcement. As an example, in a single case in West Azarbaijan Province alone, 100 pistols were discovered and seized by the police from terrorists.



D. Financing of Terrorism

The financing of terrorism is unequivocally recognized and prohibited as a serious crime under international law. Its suppression is not merely a complementary measure but a fundamental pillar of the global counter-terrorism architecture, considered as critical as direct operational action against terrorist acts themselves. Cutting off financial resources strangles the operational capabilities of terrorist groups, disrupting their planning, recruitment, logistics, and execution of attacks. The core international instruments criminalizing terrorist financing are as follows:

UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001)

Adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, this resolution is legally binding on all UN Member States. It unequivocally decides that states shall:

- o Prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts.
- o Criminalize the wilful provision or collection of funds, with the intention or knowledge that they are to be used to carry out terrorist acts.
- o Freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets of persons and entities involved in terrorism.

The International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)

This treaty provides the global legal framework, defining the offense of terrorist financing and requiring states to adopt laws to prosecute and punish those who provide funds for acts intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to civilians with the purpose of intimidating a population. It mandates international cooperation in investigations and extraditions.

There are evidences of financing terrorism in the recent unrest in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The I. R. of Iran's Defense Minister, Amir Nasirzadeh, in a meeting with military attachés of foreign embassies in Tehran, stated that there has been «joint meetings in one of the countries in the region, during which U.S. intelligence services and some Western countries presented their specific plans to increase funding aimed at creating chaos in our country. In that meeting, even the rates for destruction in Iran were set: killing each person 500 million Tomans, burning each vehicle 200 million Tomans, setting fire to police stations 80 million Tomans, and any other disruptive actions 15 million Tomans.» Amir Nasirzadeh emphasized that “One person has been arrested who received 900 million Tomans for such actions”.

IV. Foreign interference

The principle of non-intervention is a well-established principle of international law and a corollary of equal sovereignty of States. Emanating from the UN Charter, the principle has been further reaffirmed in several international instruments including UNGA Resolution 2625 (XXV) on Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations of 24 October 1970 and UNGA Resolution 2131 (XX) concerning Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty, of 21 December 1965, as well as the Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal Affairs of States of 9 December 1981, among others.

In the recent weeks, this principle has been seriously threatened with respect to the Islamic Republic of Iran by interventionist statements made by certain figures concerning the recent protests in Iran which squarely fall within the scope of purely internal affairs of the country.

There is ample evidence concerning the active role of certain foreign intelligence agents igniting the unrest and mobilizing rioters in the field. This has been based on a pre-planned agenda initially disguised as peaceful protests and later acting with naked weapons in broad daylight. This has been also reaffirmed by certain public figures such as Turkish and Serb authorities and reported by numerous news outlets including Reuters and Wall Street Journal. Nonetheless, clear direct messages by certain present and former governmental authorities need no further evidence.

In this context, there is extensive documentation indicating the actual involvement of the United States and Israel in the terrorist activities carried out during the unrest. Israeli media are replete with claims that they are designing operations inside Iran. The former Director of the CIA, Mike Pompeo, issued a post on X containing a New Year greeting “to every Iranian in the streets [and] also every Mossad agent walking beside them”. This is an explicit admission that Mossad agents actively instigated acts of terrorism among the rioters at the direction of their commanders.

**Mike Pompeo's
post on X amid the
peaceful protests in
January 2026 in Iran
before the eruption of
armed riots.**



Still more conspicuously, on 21 January 2026, the US treasury admitted that sanctions had been intended to fuel unrest in Iran. “It’s worked because in December, their economy collapsed. We saw a major bank go under. The central bank has started to print money. There is a dollar shortage. They are not able to get imports, and this is why the people took to the streets,” Bessent told Fox News during the World Economic Forum in Davos. He added, “This is economic statecraft. No shots fired. Things are moving in a very positive way here”. This speaks volumes about the root causes of the protests in Iran and their deliberately crafted transition into violent armed riots

The Prime Minister of the Zionist regime has made blatantly interventionist statements regarding Iran’s internal developments and has portrayed himself as sympathetic to the Iranian people. Such claims are profoundly deceptive, particularly considering the aggressive actions of this regime against Iran, which have resulted in the killing of more than 1,100 Iranian citizens. Decades of criminal actions by the Zionist regime against the Iranian people—often in coordination with its partners—cannot be concealed by rhetorical maneuvers or hypocritical behavior.



An X post by an account claiming to be affiliated with the Mossad, the Israeli regime’s intelligence agency, in Persian: “Take to the streets together, the time has come. We are with you, not only from afar and verbally, but with you in the field”.

It is evident that the Zionist regime seeks to exploit every opportunity to sow division within the Iranian society and undermine national cohesion. Statements and actions by figures such as the Prime Minister of this regime, as well as certain extremist and hardline American officials, in practice amount to incitement to violence, terrorism, and criminal acts. The Iranian people are fully aware of the true intentions behind such conduct and will not be deceived by these narratives.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the interventionist statements made by the President of the United States of America and other American officials regarding Iran’s internal affairs. Such coercive and unlawful positions constitute a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention, and effectively amount to encouragement of violence and terrorism against Iranian citizens.

On 2 January 2026, the President of the United States issued a statement concerning interference in Iran’s affairs. These remarks constitute yet another clear instance of intervention in the internal affairs of a Member State of the United Nations and a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In a statement amounting to incitement to violence, unrest, and terrorist acts within Iran, the President of the United States openly threatened the Islamic Republic of Iran with the use of force and intervention, declaring: “We are locked and loaded and ready to go.”



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go. Thank you for your attention to this matter! President DONALD J. TRUMP

134 Retweets 400 Likes 1/2/26, 11:28 AM

Of particular concern is that these reckless statements are not unprecedented. Only days earlier, the President of the United States had publicly threatened the Islamic Republic of Iran with the use of force, including the prospect of renewed military attacks against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities and its defensive capabilities. These repeated and deliberate statements demonstrate a consistent pattern of unlawful conduct by the United States and constitute a clear, explicit, and unlawful threat of force against a sovereign State, as well as interference in its internal affairs. Such threats are strictly prohibited under international law, regardless of political pretexts or rhetorical framing. Any attempt to incite, encourage, or legitimize internal unrest as a pretext for external pressure or military intervention constitutes a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity, in flagrant breach of international law and the UN Charter, including Articles 2(1) and 2(4), as well as General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 1970. Moreover, under international law, the encouragement, support, or facilitation of subversive or violent activities within another State constitutes an internationally wrongful act, directly engaging in the responsibility of the intervening State.

Recalling the long record of criminal interventions by successive U.S. administrations in Iran's internal affairs, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers any claim of concern for the Iranian people to be hypocritical and aimed at deceiving public opinion and concealing extensive crimes committed against Iranians. The downing of Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988, killing 300 innocent civilians; complicity with the Zionist regime in attacks on safeguarded nuclear facilities and vital infrastructure in June 2025; acts of assassination and intimidation against Iranian nationals; and decades of illegal, inhumane, and coercive sanctions targeting the fundamental rights and livelihoods of the Iranian people constitute clear and undeniable evidence of hostility toward Iran and its people.

Extensive imposition of unilateral coercive measures in recent years has had a direct and adverse impact on the enjoyment by the Iranian people of their economic, social, and cultural rights. These unlawful measures have severely restricted the country's financial resources, disrupted trade and investment, impeded access to essential goods and services, and consequently intensified economic pressures on ordinary citizens.

While imposed on third States by the US and its allies in clear contravention of fundamental principles of international law, such unilateral coercive measures are one of the primary root causes of protests; such unilateral sanctions have therefore been used as a tool to create protests which further transitioned into vandalism and pure acts of terrorism with the direct involvement of infamous terrorist cells from the region.

Under international law, the US and the Israeli regime bear international responsibility for threat of force as well as intervention. Breach of Article 2 (4) of the UN Charter and Article 2 (7) give rise to this responsibility along with a duty to make compensation for all the damages incurred. Furthermore, under Article 8 of the ILC's draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, the conduct of a person or group of persons are considered an act of a State if such persons act on the instruction of, or under the direction or control of that State. The US, in particular, is under a duty to cease its wrongful acts and to effect the said compensation through apology and reparation of all the moral and material damage incurred to the Iranian nation. This is particularly relevant considering the declared role of the US in instigation, encouragement and provision of aid or assistance, direction and control with respect to the acts of vandalism and terrorism in Iran.

V. Media used to instigate terrorism

Peaceful protests which began in the beginning days of January 2026 with a legitimate demand from merchants and economic actors with calls for economic corrective measures were faced with utmost restraint on the part of security forces. However, from the outset, certain satellite channels and social media accounts on diverse platforms played a significant role in promoting violence and acts of terrorism in the recent unrest. As a result, such channels and accounts did their best to turn these totally peaceful demonstrations into violent acts of vandalism and terrorism. Iran International, BBC Persian, Manoto, Radio Farda, and various accounts on Instagram are just a few examples.

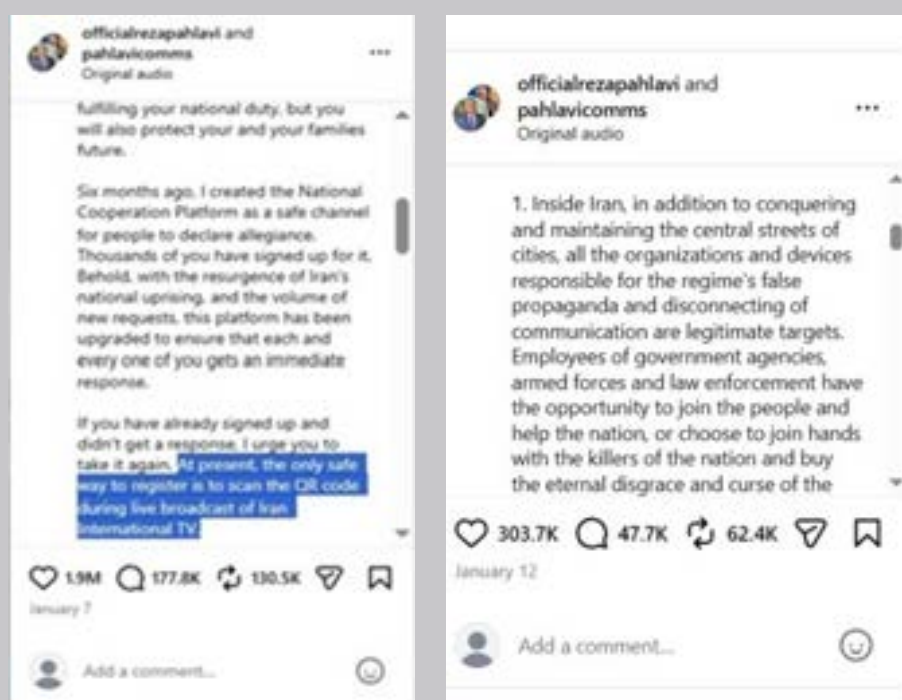
In this regard, the role of Iran International satellite channel is pivotal. Directed by the Zionist regime's intelligence agencies, this channel has a well-known record of distorting facts, fabricating news, and other similar practices.

In the recent unrest in Iran, it has intensified these practices in a considerable degree, including by:

- promoting hate speech against civilian and law enforcement personnel and religious institutions in violation of human rights conventions, which resulted in hundreds of arson attacks against mosques and educational institutions, in some cases spreading as wild fires engulfing parts of the cities, and in killing of many people, including by burning them alive while defending their places of worship.
- encouraging attacks against banks as the “centers of money laundering of the regime”, the Iranian media, newspapers and publications as the “propaganda centers of the regime”, and other similar violent acts, which are clear examples of terrorism as enshrined in relevant anti-terrorism conventions;
- inciting the Iranians living abroad to violate the immunity of the embassies and consulates of the Islamic Republic of Iran, contrary to the provisions of the Vienna conventions on Diplomatic and consular relations of 1961 and 1963;
- giving completely fabricated and false statistics about the number of victims in the unrest and attributing them to the security forces, with the aim of inciting new terrorist acts and incurring new victims.

Reza Pahlavi, the son of the last Shah of Iran who was deposed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution, is working very closely with Iran International in orchestrating the violent and terrorist acts, both obviously guided and supported by the US and the Israeli regime's intelligence agencies. Just as an example, in a post on his Instagram account on 7 January 2026, Pahlavi shared a QR code on Iran International live broadcast as the only safe way to register on his National Cooperation Platform. In another video on his Instagram account on 12 January 2026, he instigated people to attack “all the organizations responsible for regime's false propaganda” as “legitimate targets”. He further encouraged people to violate the immunity of the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassies and consulates under international law by “decorating them with the [former] national flag of Iran instead of the disgraceful flag of the Islamic Republic”. These videos were repeatedly broadcast by Iran International satellite TV.

In the videos posted on 7 and 12 January 2026 on Reza Pahlavi's Instagram account, he shows his close coordination with Iran International and encourages people to violate the immunities of Iranian diplomatic and consular missions and attack communication infrastructure. These videos were broadcast repeatedly on Iran International.



In the recent unrest in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iran International has fully coordinated its propaganda campaign with the pre-planned plot by the US and Zionist regime. It has acted to facilitate the terrorist acts of the field agents and leaders by means of encouraging the youth to join them and act under their leadership without them being aware of the medium's true intent.

Instagram is another platform widely used for disseminating hateful and illegal content during the recent unrest. Although according to the Terms of Use of Instagram, it is prohibited to use Instagram Services for any illegal or unauthorized purposes, and local laws should be complied with, the platform was full of such content prior and during the unrest. Actually, there is no evidence that Instagram has done anything to remove for example the post on Pahlavi's account inviting attacks against communication infrastructure, or violations of immunities of diplomatic and consular missions, or to terminate his account according to its Terms of Use.

These acts and practices are manifestly criminal in nature, are prohibited in any given jurisdiction across the globe, and punishable by heaviest sanctions. Unfortunately, UK, US and other countries hosting Iran International and other similar media, or broadcasting them through their platforms and satellites, have turned a blind eye on their criminal acts, which nevertheless does not prevent their responsibility under international law. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to bring all those who are responsible in this regard to justice, both in its own judicial system and in international forums.

Furthermore, under the principle of prohibition of incitement to violence, as codified most expressly in Article 20 of the ICCPR, States are obliged to prohibit by law any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to hostility or violence. The failure of a State to exercise its due diligence in terms of prevention of hate speech and incitement to violence, and further to decisively intervene against violent attacks is a breach of its obligations under international law; inaction, too, creates an environment that facilitates and implicitly endorses such violent acts.

VI. Attacks against diplomatic and consular missions

Following peaceful protests in Iran and concurrent with the acts of violence, some diplomatic and consular missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran were targeted by acts of vandalism threatening the security of Iranian diplomatic and consular agents and staff, encroaching upon inviolability of the premises and calling into question the obligations of receiving States in this regard.

In certain countries, individuals authorized to hold demonstrations near Iranian diplomatic and consular premises, turned the same into riots and committed acts of vandalism while chanting insulting slogans and writing the same on the walls of the premises. In some countries, the law enforcement of the receiving States stood by while rioters lowered the mission's flag and in some cases burned the same replacing it with fake ones. The said incursions are besides the fact that in some cases the very person of the diplomatic and consular agents and staff were threatened, intimidated and physically assaulted.

In Bonn and Hamburg, Germany, on 5 January 2026 (15 Dey 1404), there were illegal entries and intrusions into consular buildings. In Hamburg, the mission's flag was taken down and an illegitimate flag was installed.

In Helsinki, Finland, on 14 January 2026 (22 Dey 1404), the official flag of the mission was taken down by an intruder and replaced by a fake flag. The felony was accompanied by vandalism as well.

In Brussels, Belgium, rioters explicitly threatened diplomatic staff with "death" and "being burned alive", constituting a clear escalation of violent behavior, creating an atmosphere of extreme terror, and raising serious concerns regarding the security and safety of the staff.

In Vienna, Austria, a concerning prolonged permit for demonstration was issued (12 – 18 January) while harassments against the staff continued. For example, on 9 January 2026 (19 Dey 1404), Iranian diplomatic agents were harassed from mid-day to dusk. In another instance, one of the staff was physically assaulted while commuting from the office on 13 January 2026.

In London, UK, on 11 January 2026 (21 Dey 1404), they breached the Embassy premises, removed the flag of the I.R. of Iran and installed an illegitimate flag, committing acts of vandalism and intimidation by throwing dangerous objects, including stones, thereby causing damage, undermining the security of the mission, and creating an atmosphere of terror.

In Rabat, Morocco, on 15 January 2026 (23 Dey 1404), vandals threw red paint on the sign of the Embassy and the official emblem of the Islamic Republic of Iran and wrote threatening slogans on the walls of the Embassy.

In Canberra, Australia, intruders into the diplomatic mission took down the flag and vandalized the Embassy's signs and walls with paint.

In Wellington, New Zealand, too, the intrusion was accompanied with substantial damage to the security infrastructure of the mission.

In Madrid, Spain, the premises of the Embassy were breached by transgressors.

Instances of attacks against diplomatic and consular missions are clear examples of violation of international law governing diplomatic and consular relations, and brings into attention the immunities and protections enjoyed by such missions and the respective duties of the receiving states.

A. Inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises

The 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, as the cornerstone treaties, establish the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises and provide for the responsibility of the receiving state to protect the premises of the missions.

Art. 22 (2) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations stipulates that “the receiving State is under a special duty to take all appropriate steps to protect the premises of the mission against any intrusion or damage and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission or impairment of its dignity”.

A nearly identical and equally binding obligation for consular missions is provided for in Article 31 (3) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations (1963).

These Conventions guarantee the personal safety, freedom, and dignity of diplomatic and consular personnel. Threats of violence, such as those involving killing or burning, constitute severe breaches of these fundamental obligations.

The special duty of protection of foreign diplomatic premises includes the obligation to prevent any disturbance of the peace of the mission. This requires the receiving State to keep demonstrations on a reasonable distance from the diplomatic and consular missions and to ensure that members of the mission and visitors remain able to access the mission and are not subject to harassment. Even allowing disturbing noises such as loud music in front of a mission with the sole aim of harassing the members of the mission is a clear violation of Article 22 (2) of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

B. Duties of the receiving State

The receiving State is under a duty to ensure the safety and security of diplomatic and consular staff and missions, including through deployment of a sufficient number of law enforcement officers and equipment in time of unrest.

In case of failure, the receiving State obviously remains responsible. Under customary international law, as reflected in the ILC’s draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, a state is internationally responsible for its wrongful acts, that is, for failure to fulfill its obligations under the 1961 and 1963 Vienna Conventions, including failure to protect, or exercise its duties in preventing intrusions into diplomatic premises, attacks on their symbols (like flags), or threats against staff.

The receiving State is therefore under a duty to pay full compensation as regards any damage suffered by the premises. This includes cessation and non-repetition, satisfaction (this may involve a formal apology, acknowledgment of the breach, or prosecution of the perpetrators) and reparation. The responsible state is obligated to provide financial compensation for any material and moral damages suffered. This can cover damages to property (e.g., the mission) and, critically, compensation for the psychological harm and threat to safety experienced by the staff of the mission.

It is the solemn and legitimate expectation of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the receiving States, in particular in the abovementioned capitals, should exercise their due diligence to take all necessary measures to prevent further infringement of the inviolability and dignity of the diplomatic and consular premises and staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and to immediately fulfill their compensation obligations where applicable.

Concluding remarks

The recent organized terrorist operations have once again exposed “the true nature of the United States’ behavior toward Iran”, while raising a broader question for the international community regarding unchecked foreign interference in sovereign states.

The organized acts of violence carried out between January 8 and 10 were not spontaneous protests but part of a calculated and organized project backed by the US and the Zionist regime. Training, equipping, and directing criminal elements, explicit incitement to violence, and efforts to destabilize Iran’s internal security are all components that render these events far beyond peaceful protests. Instead, they represent acts of terrorism during which terrorist groups carried out armed attacks against civilians, security forces, and public infrastructure as a means of trying to divert economic protests towards unrest. Such a diversion from peaceful protests to terrorism will certainly have significant implications under international law.

The attacks were fueled by incendiary remarks by US President who threatened fresh military aggression against Iran in blatant violation of the UN Charter.

Intelligence officials have verified that the US- and Israeli-backed riotous elements were seeking to hijack the protests and ignite chaos as a means of paving the way for such aggression. The unrest resulted in extensive damage to public infrastructure, including mosques, educational institutions, banks, hospitals, power facilities, and public stores, as well as the deaths of security personnel and civilians. The scale of destruction demonstrated an intent to disrupt public order and spread fear within society.

Dozens of Iranian civilians and security personnel have been martyred at the hands of the terrorists who have been confirmed by the Islamic Republic’s intelligence to have been in receipt of intelligence, operational, logistical, and financial support by Washington and the Israeli regime’s Mossad spy agency.

These tragic events highlighted the double standards of the US and its Western allies and their support for terrorist entities such as the anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) that has the blood of thousands of Iranian civilians and officials on its hands, and the Israeli regime, which has killed tens of thousands of people across the region.

Although the United States and Israeli regime suffered another defeat in the recent terrorist riots in Iran after the failure of their joint military aggression against the country in June last year, the US and Israeli regime need to be held accountable as the main orchestrator of the recent sedition in the country.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its full and unequivocal right to seek accountability from the United States and Israeli Regime through all available legal avenues and to pursue compensation for losses resulting from their involvement in their wrongful acts in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On a different note, as regards the right to peaceful assembly in the Islamic Republic of Iran, this is a well-respected right in Iran as are its sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence from foreign intervention. Vandalism and terrorism with the instigation and support of other countries, however, undermine public order and national security and are not tolerated by sovereign and independent States.

The January 2026 protests in Iran started in December 2025 by the Iranian economic sector and tradesmen due to certain corrective measures. The root cause of these, however, are

unprecedented unilateral coercive measures by the US and its allies in contravention of basic principles of international law. This was particularly confirmed by the active involvement of terrorist cells with financial and other material support from the US and the Israeli regime in the ensuing riots. The damage incurred to the Iranian people and particularly those who lost their dear ones at the direct instigation of US and Israeli criminals lies on the shoulders of the latter. In tandem with the same, the international responsibility of all those countries harboring terrorists and terrorist groups, and providing support of any kind thereto is beyond evident.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully cognizant of all the threats against its sovereignty, territorial integrity and security. Rooted in decades and against a background of hostile adversary to its long-standing values, such threats in the modern age not only emanate from its adversaries' ill-motivated agendas through propaganda and terror-mongering media but are reflective of failed attempts to destabilize the country and jeopardize its security in decades.

Nefarious unilateral sanctions remain as the main root cause of destabilization of national economies. The recent unrest in Iran should alarm other countries as to the intervening and highly destabilizing nature of unilateral economic adventurism. This could happen to any country. Indeed, Iran has learned not to rely its economy on the hegemonistic trade unilateralism of the US; such a dependence risks interventionist adventures that could impose a high price on the targeted populations. Iran succeeded such attempts do not work in Iran. What about other potential nations? No one seems to be immune against such plots as long as unilateral coercive measures are not played at and are not taken for granted by all members States of the United Nations.

Given the above, international law remains at a critical intersection of short-sighted interests and destabilizing unilateralist adventurism. Yet, the question persists; when will the community of nations be ready to take an effective action against the boomerang effect of unilateralism? What cost should be paid before free nations rid their legal systems of the Sword of Damocles held by the US over their economies?

We have yet to see; but till then, those harboring and supporting terrorists, in particular, the US and Israeli regime criminals, remain accountable under international law and Iran reserves its rights to bring them to justice through lawful means including at relevant international fora.

Non-paper

Regarding the Ongoing Unrest in the Islamic Republic of Iran

January 2026

On Sunday, 28 December 2025 (corresponding to 7 Dey 1404), following an increase in foreign exchange rates, sector-based protest gatherings were formed by some traders in the Tehran Bazaar. These gatherings were motivated by economic concerns and were held in response to the negative effects of currency fluctuations on commercial activities, purchasing power, and economic security. The principal demand of the participants was the restoration of stability in the market and the adoption of effective measures to curb volatility in this sector. From the outset, these gatherings were peaceful, professional, and demand-driven in nature, and participants sought to express their demands in a calm manner and without disrupting public order.

• **Respect for and Protection of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly**

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms its commitment to its obligations under international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), regarding respecting and protecting the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. These rights are guaranteed under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the domestic legal framework and are recognized as essential elements of public participation in social and economic affairs.

All authorities and institutions of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran give due attention to the peaceful and lawful demands of peaceful protesters and will utilize all available capacities and mechanisms to pursue and address such demands.

The Islamic Republic of Iran neither in law nor in practice opposes the holding of peaceful assemblies. Long before any statements or recommendations by international or foreign officials regarding the right of Iranian citizens to peaceful assembly, the Islamic Republic of Iran had already implemented this right and provided the necessary legal infrastructure for its exercise, in accordance with its international human rights obligations and domestic laws.

It is expected that due care be exercised in making a clear distinction between peaceful protest—which is a lawful, legitimate, and protected right—and riots or violent acts.

Just as the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself fully committed to supporting and protecting the right of its citizens to peaceful and lawful protest, it is equally obliged to prevent threats to public security. Accordingly, it must adopt necessary legal and preventive measures to confront any form of violence that endangers the lives, property, or psychological well-being of citizens and society. Within this framework, the rights of millions of peace-seeking Iranians will not be compromised due to the actions of a very limited number of violent individuals. Nor should any international official, mechanism, or human rights body expect law-enforcement forces to

remain indifferent to armed or violent acts occurring simultaneously with or alongside peaceful assemblies, or to allow perpetrators of violence free rein to impose damage, harm, or costs on society and peaceful protesters.

All parties must recognize and adhere to this distinction so that peaceful protests may take place in a calm environment and the voices and demands of protesters are properly heard. All international officials and States should give serious consideration to this matter and refrain from any involvement in violence or destabilizing actions.

• **Livelihood-Related Protests and Measures Adopted by the Government**

In recent days, several gatherings have taken place in various parts of the country, primarily in response to economic concerns, including temporary fluctuations in exchange rates. Individuals who peacefully expressed their demands were not subjected to any confrontation, in accordance with the law and within the framework of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and no instances of violence, harassment, or undue interference were reported in these cases.

Nevertheless, a significant portion of the peaceful and fully lawful protests by some bazaar merchants and members of the public, held in protest the country's economic conditions, were exploited—due to foreign interference—by a very small group, and in some cases escalated into violent and even armed clashes with law-enforcement forces at protest sites. These acts bore no connection whatsoever to the legitimate economic demands of the protesters and were neither endorsed nor supported by most of the population.

At the same time, authorities observed instances of violent unrest perpetrated by a limited number of individuals, including attacks on police stations, the use of incendiary devices such as Molotov cocktails against law-enforcement officers, and in some cases the use of firearms. Such actions constitute serious crimes involving violence against people and destruction of public property and fall outside the protective scope of peaceful assemblies under international human rights law. No State can tolerate such conduct.

It is evident that such violent acts, including the use of weapons and various types of hand-made explosive devices by terrorist groups, not only harm public security and endanger the lives and property of citizens, but also undermine the peaceful nature of protests and give rise to public concern. It should be noted that a clear distinction between peaceful civic protests and organized violent actions has consistently been emphasized by the competent authorities and relevant institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran. This approach was explicitly underscored in the remarks of the Supreme Leader on 3 January 2026 (13 Dey 1404), who stated:

“Protest is justified. We engage in dialogue with protesters. Officials must talk to protesters. However, those who, under various pretexts, come with the intention of destruction, of creating insecurity in the country, and who exploit the protests of bazaar merchants to cause riots and disorder, must be confronted.”

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran has instructed the Ministry of Interior to conduct a comprehensive review of all incidents related to these events. This process is being carried out with the aim of ensuring transparency, clarifying responsibilities, strengthening accountability and preventive mechanisms, and with full respect for fair trial guarantees.

The Government has also taken tangible and positive steps to address the root causes of economic and social concerns. Immediate support packages for vulnerable groups have been implemented, and specialized consultative meetings have been held with representatives of guilds, bazaar unions, and business communities in major cities. The purpose of these engagements is to directly hear public demands, reduce market tensions, and initiate economic corrective measures.

Iran once again emphasizes the clear and principled distinction it draws between peaceful protests and violent or disorderly acts. While lawful assemblies and the peaceful expression of demands are fully respected and facilitated, authorities are obliged under international human rights law and domestic legislation to protect public security, the rights of others, and public order. Any response to unlawful acts is conducted in accordance with the principles of legality, necessity, proportionality, restraint, and accountability.

• **Conduct of Law-Enforcement Forces in Relation to Protests**

Despite the occurrence of violence by some individuals, law-enforcement forces have acted with restraint and in accordance with applicable laws, exercising utmost care to restore public order and security while minimizing harm and observing human rights principles, including necessity and proportionality.

• **Foreign Interference**

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its deep concern regarding overt and increasing foreign interference in the country's internal affairs and recent protests. The Prime Minister of the Zionist regime has made blatantly interventionist statements regarding Iran's internal developments and has portrayed himself as sympathetic to the Iranian people. Such claims are profoundly deceptive, particularly considering the aggressive actions of this regime against Iran, which have resulted in the killing of more than 1,100 Iranian citizens. Decades of criminal actions by the Zionist regime against the Iranian people—often in coordination with its partners—cannot be concealed by rhetorical maneuvers or hypocritical behavior.

It is evident that the Zionist regime seeks to exploit every opportunity to sow division within Iranian society and undermine national cohesion. Statements and actions by figures such as the Prime Minister of this regime, as well as certain extremist and hardline American officials, in practice amount to incitement to violence, terrorism, and criminal acts. The Iranian people are fully aware of the true intentions behind such conduct and will not be deceived by these narratives.

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the interventionist statements made by the President of the United States of America and other American officials regarding Iran's internal affairs. Such coercive and unlawful positions constitute a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention, and effectively amount to encouragement of violence and terrorism against Iranian citizens.

On 2 January 2026, the President of the United States issued a statement concerning interference in Iran's affairs. These remarks constitute yet another clear instance of intervention in the internal affairs of a Member State of the United Nations and a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In a statement amounting to incitement to violence,

unrest, and terrorist acts within Iran, the President of the United States openly threatened the Islamic Republic of Iran with the use of force and intervention, declaring: “We are locked and loaded and ready to go.”

Of particular concern is that these reckless statements are not unprecedented. Only days earlier, the President of the United States had publicly threatened the Islamic Republic of Iran with the use of force, including the prospect of renewed military attacks against Iran’s peaceful nuclear facilities and its defensive capabilities. These repeated and deliberate statements demonstrate a consistent pattern of unlawful conduct by the United States and constitute a clear, explicit, and unlawful threat of the use of force against a sovereign State, as well as interference in its internal affairs. Such threats are strictly prohibited under international law, regardless of political pretexts or rhetorical framing. Any attempt to incite, encourage, or legitimize internal unrest as a pretext for external pressure or military intervention constitutes a grave violation of Iran’s sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity, in flagrant breach of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, including Articles 2(1), 2(4), and 2(7) thereof, as well as General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 1970. Moreover, under international law, the encouragement, support, or facilitation of subversive or violent activities within another State constitutes an internationally wrongful act, directly engaging in the responsibility of the intervening State.

Recalling the long record of criminal interventions by successive U.S. administrations in Iran’s internal affairs, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers any claim of concern for the Iranian people to be hypocritical and aimed at deceiving public opinion and concealing extensive crimes committed against Iranians. The downing of Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988, killing 300 innocent civilians; complicity with the Zionist regime in attacks on safeguarded nuclear facilities and vital infrastructure in June 2025; acts of assassination and intimidation against Iranian nationals; and decades of illegal, inhumane, and coercive sanctions targeting the fundamental rights and livelihoods of the Iranian people constitute clear and undeniable evidence of hostility toward Iran and its people.

• **Economic Pressures Resulting from Unilateral Coercive Measures Against the Iranian People**

The Islamic Republic of Iran further emphasizes that the extensive imposition of unilateral coercive measures has had a direct and adverse impact on the enjoyment by the Iranian people of their economic, social, and cultural rights. These unlawful measures have severely restricted the country’s financial resources, disrupted trade and investment, impeded access to essential goods and services, and consequently intensified economic pressures on ordinary citizens.

Conclusion

It is once again emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran fully respects and remains deeply committed to safeguarding the rights of its citizens, including the right to peaceful protests and assemblies, and has consistently implemented and will continue to implement this commitment. This right, as a cornerstone of civic and social participation, is recognized in the country's policies and legal frameworks, and continuous efforts are made to ensure that citizens can express their demands and views in a lawful, safe, and peaceful manner. This approach is pursued not only in accordance with domestic requirements but also within the framework of the international obligations of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As an active State Party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and other relevant international conventions and instruments, Iran considers itself bound by the full and precise implementation of these instruments. Alongside domestic laws that accord a special status to citizens' rights, these rights are closely monitored and actively protected. All authorities, institutions, and structures of the Islamic Republic of Iran are fully aware of these principles and obligations and consider themselves duty-bound to uphold them. This awareness and commitment form the basis of decision-making and executive action at all levels and guide the conduct of authorities in addressing peaceful assemblies and protests.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally guarantees that all human rights will be fully respected in the management of recent protests. Foremost among these rights is the right to life, which will be fully respected, and no negligence or violation will be tolerated in this regard. The lives of peaceful protesters are not at risk, and the protection of all individuals present at protests is the primary and non-negotiable priority of law-enforcement forces on the ground. All authorities and governmental bodies of the Islamic Republic of Iran hear the peaceful and lawful demands of protesters and utilize all available capacities and resources to pursue and address them, in order to safeguard citizens' legitimate rights and ensure the rule of law.

The Islamic Republic of Iran recognizes and fully supports, in both law and practice, the right of citizens to hold peaceful assemblies. Accordingly, well before any recommendation or intervention by international or foreign officials, the necessary legal infrastructure to guarantee this right had been established in full conformity with international human rights obligations and domestic law. In due course, documented clarificatory reports on all these developments will be prepared and made available to the international community. These reports will demonstrate, with confidence and evidence, how Iran has sought to address these protests in full compliance with its human rights obligations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran remains committed to dialogue, constructive engagement, and addressing legitimate economic and social concerns through lawful and participatory mechanisms, while firmly preventing any abuse of peaceful protests for violence, terrorism, or externally driven destabilization.

Without doubt, the ongoing protests in Iran would proceed without difficulty in the absence of biased interference by foreign political authorities. With nearly five decades of experience in confronting conspiracies and challenges imposed by third parties on the Government and people of Iran, the Islamic Republic of Iran knows well how to exercise patience and resilience in the face of such challenges. This is not Iran's first experience in confronting social challenges that, under the influence of external interference, are systematically driven toward violence, and it will certainly overcome this challenge.

It is expected that statements by international officials be comprehensive and reflective of all relevant realities, and not based solely on selective, biased, or politically motivated reports and allegations, and that any intervention likely to exacerbate the non-peaceful dimensions of recent protests be avoided.

Once again, it is emphasized that the Islamic Republic of Iran remains fully committed to fulfilling its obligations to protect the rights of Iranian citizens—particularly the right to peaceful assembly—while simultaneously considering the protection of lives and property, the safeguarding of public assets, and the preservation of public security as fundamental responsibilities. In both domains, Iran will act fully and without hesitation in accordance with the law and its international obligations.

Remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs at the Meeting with Heads of Foreign Diplomatic Missions and Representatives of UN Agencies in Tehran

Monday, 12 January 2026

Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Monday, 12 January 2026 (22 Dey 1404), addressed ambassadors, heads of foreign diplomatic missions, and representatives of international organizations resident in Tehran regarding recent developments. His remarks are as follows:

The purpose of convening this meeting is to brief you on what has transpired on the ground and in the streets of various Iranian cities, and to share with you our assessments and findings.

In a few weeks, we will commemorate the 47th anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution, which demonstrates the arduous and eventful path that the Iranian nation has traversed in order to preserve its independence and dignity, while simultaneously resisting attempts by foreign powers to exert influence over Iran.

Beginning on 28 December, we witnessed certain protests, mainly among bazaar merchants, trade guilds, and economic actors. These were entirely peaceful demonstrations expressing grievances, which, under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, constitute the legitimate right of every Iranian citizen to express protest in a peaceful manner. From 28 to 30 December, during the first phase, peaceful protests were held primarily within the bazaar and trade sectors, and the government immediately initiated dialogue with representatives of these groups.

We hope that no miscalculation will be made by other countries. What occurred during those three days we consider a continuation of the twelve-day war, in which an externally designed plan sought to create unrest inside Iran; however, the people stood firmly against it through unity and cohesion.

During those three days of peaceful protest—again, mainly among bazaar merchants and trade guilds—the government promptly began dialogue with their representatives. The President met with the heads of chambers of guilds and commerce, as well as a number of economic actors. Economic ministers also held meetings, listened to their demands, and designed and implemented certain economic measures and reforms. As the demonstrations were peaceful and aimed at expressing grievances, the guilds and economic actors articulated their concerns, the government listened, and in the first stage the protests began to subside, giving way to dialogue.

However, in the second phase, new elements entered the demonstrations. At this stage, the protests moved toward violence. Many countries, including Western states and the United States itself, have experienced similar situations. Our security forces acted with maximum restraint and sought to prevent violence. From 1 to 7 January, we faced such protests, accompanied by limited acts of violence, which from our perspective remained within tolerable bounds.

From 8 January onward, until 10 January, we witnessed the entry of terrorist elements, armed groups, and weapons into the protest scene. These weapons were distributed among demonstrators. It was entirely evident that a new plan had been devised to divert the protests from their original course and steer them toward violence, bloodshed, and chaos.

These armed elements opened fire on police and law-enforcement forces. We subsequently realized that they were firing not only at police officers, but also at ordinary civilians. Their sole objective was to increase the number of fatalities, particularly after the President of the United States announced that, should there be a confrontation with the people, he would attack Iran. This constitutes a blatant interference in the internal affairs of another country.

Accordingly, those seeking to create unrest pursued a strategy of increasing casualties in the hope of triggering U.S. intervention. We possess recorded audio evidence in which instructions are given: "Fire into the crowd; if you can hit the police, do so; if not, shoot ordinary civilians—the young woman or man in front of you. What matters is that the number of deaths increases and more blood is shed."

We have extensive documentation indicating the involvement of the United States and Israel in these terrorist actions. Israeli media are replete with claims that they are designing operations inside Iran. The former Director of the CIA, Mike Pompeo, tweeted a New Year greeting to people in the streets and to Mossad agents alongside them. This is an explicit admission that Mossad agents who speak Persian are present in the streets of Iran. We are pursuing these matters seriously, and we consider those whose statements contributed to an increase in casualties to be responsible and accountable for their actions.

These are the same actors who ignored the killing of 70,000 human beings in Gaza, who failed to condemn U.S. and Israeli attacks on Iran, and who now shed crocodile tears for terrorists. We recognize the right of anyone in Iran to protest; however, no country tolerates riots, arson of public property, terrorism, or the shooting of civilians and security forces. I hope that countries which have adopted erroneous positions will pay attention to the realities on the ground.

According to the latest data, our people demand an end to these riots and support firm action against them. Only 30 percent of the population views these disturbances as stemming from economic problems, while over 70 percent consider them to have a foreign origin.

We will seek justice for the blood of our people through both international and domestic legal mechanisms. Security forces currently have full control of the situation, and we hope once again that no miscalculation will be made by other countries. We regard what occurred during those three days as a continuation of the twelve-day war, designed externally to drag unrest into Iran, but the people resisted through unity. This time, they attempted to initiate terrorist operations from within to pave the way for foreign intervention—another serious miscalculation. At present, security forces maintain full control in all cities.

Today, the people of Iran will rally around the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The temporary internet restrictions were implemented for the security of the Iranian people and of you as well. Our colleagues are in contact with security bodies, and efforts are underway to restore internet access for foreign embassies and return conditions to normal.

Iran is a great and powerful country, and it has always been so. Iran tolerates lawful, peaceful demonstrations, as you have observed. The government entered into dialogue, and certain reforms were implemented through this process. However, there are security considerations, which you also acknowledge, and which pose risks to you as well. Certain restrictions will therefore remain in place until we are assured that no threat exists.

Iran does not seek war, but it is fully prepared for war. We do not desire war, yet we are prepared for it—indeed, even more prepared than during the previous twelve-day war. The best way to prevent war is preparedness, so that adversaries do not fall into miscalculation. We are also prepared for negotiations—but negotiations that are fair, dignified, conducted from a position of equality, with mutual respect and based on mutual interests; negotiations that are serious and genuine, not ones involving orders or diktats, as is the practice of some countries.

Letter by Iran's Foreign Minister to UN Secretary General

14 January 2026

Excellency,

I am writing to draw your kind attention to the ISIS-style acts of terrorism and violence that the people of the Islamic Republic of Iran experienced during 8-10 January 2026 across the country. Peaceful protests started from 28 December 2025 on economic grounds were sabotaged by terrorist elements who turned them into armed riots. The recorded cases of beheading, burning people alive, beating police officers and ordinary citizens to death and widespread use of firearms as well as setting ablaze significant number of ambulances, fire machines, health centers and residential, public and worship places constitute a pattern that reflect exploitation of earlier peaceful protests by well-trained terrorist actors. Considerable number of police officers were among those who lost their lives during, while many more were injured. The high casualties reflect the level of self-restraint that was exercised by the law enforcement officers in one hand, and the level of violence that were practiced by terrorist elements against them on the other.

I would further like to raise with deep concern the irresponsible and provocative statements made by the United States' past and present officials who are directly inciting violence and acts of terrorism in Iran. Walking on a track of absolute disrespect for international law, such remarks and the repeating threats on the use of force, constitute a flagrant breach of the principles of international law and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations that prohibits incitement to terror, encouragement of violence and intruding in the internal affairs of sovereign states. The open confession about the presence of the Israeli regime's MOSAD agents among the rioters by the former US Secretary of State is a matter of particular concern. The appalling abuse of peaceful protests for scoring political gains and putting at risk the lives of ordinary citizens by the US officials are totally aligned with the role that the US unlawful unilateral sanctions against Iranians' rights to life and development played in the creation of the present situation in the first place. The deceitful claims by the same US officials for supporting Iranian's human rights are, therefore, nothing but disgraceful. The massive rally held across Iran on Monday 12 January 2026 objecting foreign interventions should have sent a clear message on the will and determination of the overwhelming majority of Iranians on their support for national unity and respect for law and order.

I would also like to underscore the fact that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran cognizant of its human rights commitments including the right to peaceful protests has made all possible measures to exercise maximum restraint in the face of violence and acts of terrorism, while carrying out its intrinsic obligations with regard to protecting its people and ensuring public order and national security.

I avail this opportunity and call for the unequivocal condemnation and rejection of all acts of terrorism committed during the unrests regardless of the incentives as well as the external interventions and incitements against sovereignty, territorial integrity and vital national interests of the government and people of Iran.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

H.E. Antonio Guterres, the Secretary General of the U.N.

cc:

Excellencies, the Foreign Ministers of the UN Member States

H.E. Volker Turk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Seyed Abbas Araghchi
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council

30 December 2025

No. 2773132

Excellencies,

Upon instructions from my Government, I wish to draw your urgent attention to yet another serious instance of the violation of international law, namely the grave and explicit threats of the use of force by the President of the United States of America against the Islamic Republic of Iran. During a joint press conference with the Prime Minister of the Israeli regime on 29 December 2025, the President of the United States stated: «If Iran continues with its missile program, yes, I support striking Iran. If they continue with their nuclear program, the strike should be immediate.

He blatantly threatened Iran by saying that «We're going to have to knock them down. We'll knock them down. We'll knock the hell out of them.»

These provocative and escalatory statements threatening the use of force, directed against the Islamic Republic of Iran, constitute a manifest and flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 2(4), which unequivocally prohibits both the use and the threat of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. The precedent set by the unwarranted and unlawful aggression jointly carried out by the United States and the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran between 13 and 24 June 2025 makes it even more crucial to rebuke and reject the recent threatening statements of the U.S. President. In fact, these statements do not constitute mere rhetoric but a renewed and explicit threat to continue an unlawful course of conduct based on an intent that would entail international responsibility for the United States.

On 6 November 2025, the President of the United States openly acknowledged the responsibility and direct involvement of the United States in the June 2025 aggression, which involved deliberate attacks against civilians, critical infrastructure, and peaceful nuclear facilities under the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) comprehensive safeguards. As stated in the letter by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran dated 12 November 2025

(S/2025/743), such an admission entails individual criminal responsibility for the President of the United States and other United States officials involved in grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including the crime of aggression.

The President of the United States, standing side by side with the Israeli Prime Minister, an internationally indicted war criminal, is cynically seeking to threaten the Islamic Republic of Iran and to deny its inherent NPT-enshrined rights, as well as its legitimate sovereign right to the means essential for self-defense.

It is deeply regrettable that these explicit threats come from a nuclear-weapon State and depository of the NPT, with a long and consistent record of gross violations of its Treaty obligations, including by attacking peaceful nuclear facilities of a non-nuclear State. The U.S.

also continues to lend unconditional support to, and collaborate with, the Israeli regime as the sole possessor of nuclear weapons in West Asia, which has threatened the use of weapons of mass destruction against other nations in the region with complete impunity. This represents a persistent and blatant double standard, severely undermining regional and international security and constituting a direct assault on the integrity of the global non-proliferation regime.

The persistent inaction and paralysis of the Security Council in the face of such explicit threats and acts of aggression have entrenched a dangerous climate of impunity. This failure has emboldened the United States and the Israeli regime—acting with the full political, military, and diplomatic backing of the United States—to continue their unlawful conduct, thereby posing a grave and direct threat to regional and international peace and security.

In light of the foregoing, the Islamic Republic of Iran calls upon the Security Council, and in particular its responsible members, to: unequivocally and strongly condemn the explicit threat of the use of force against Iran by the United States as a clear and serious violation of the objectives and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; demand that the United States immediately comply with its obligations under the Charter and international law, cease all threats or uses of force, and discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations; and act decisively and without selectivity to prevent further escalation arising from the continued impunity and blatant disregard for international law by a permanent member of the Council and its regional stooge, the Israeli regime.

Failure to do so would not only further undermine international peace and security, but would also gravely erode the credibility, authority, and legitimacy of the Security Council itself, entrusted with the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The prohibition of the threat or use of force constitutes an *erga omnes* obligation owed to the international community as a whole, and its violation cannot be ignored or excused without inflicting lasting damage on the international legal order upon which the United Nations is built.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally condemns these reckless threats and reaffirms its inherent and inalienable right to self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations against any armed attack or act of aggression. Iran will exercise this right decisively and proportionately should its sovereignty, territorial integrity, people, or vital national interests be subjected to further acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Amir Saeid Aravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General
United Nations, New York
H.E. Mr. Samuel Žbogar
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York

Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council

2 January 2026

No. 2774684

Excellencies,

Upon instructions from my Government, and further to my letter dated 30 December 2025, I wish to draw the attention of Your Excellency and the members of the Security Council to the statement made today, 2 January 2026, by the President of the United States of America, which constitutes yet another clear instance of intervention in the internal affairs of a Member State of the United Nations, in violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. In a statement amounting to the incitement of violence, unrest, and terrorist acts within Iran, the President of the United States openly threatened the Islamic Republic of Iran with the use of force and intervention, declaring that “We are locked and loaded and ready to go.”

It is of particular concern that this reckless statement does not stand in isolation. Only days earlier, the President of the United States publicly threatened the Islamic Republic of Iran with the use of force, including renewed military attacks against Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities and its defensive capabilities. These repeated and deliberate statements demonstrate a consistent pattern of unlawful conduct by the United States and constitute a clear, explicit, and unlawful threat of the use of force against a sovereign State, as well as interference in its internal affairs. Such threats, irrespective of political pretexts or rhetorical framing, are strictly prohibited under international law. Any attempt to incite, encourage, or legitimize internal unrest as a pretext for external pressure or military intervention constitutes a grave violation of Iran's sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity, in flagrant breach of international law and the Charter of the United

Nations, including Articles 2 (1), 2 (4), and 2 (7) thereof, as well as General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 1970. Moreover, under international law, the encouragement, support, or facilitation of subversive or violent activities within another State constitutes an internationally wrongful act, directly engaging the responsibility of the intervening State.

Ironically, these so-called claims of “supporting the Iranian people” emanate from officials of a State with a long and well-documented record of military interventions, regime-change operations, and unlawful uses of force across the globe, carried out in gross violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, and resulting in widespread civilian casualties, the collapse of States, humanitarian catastrophes, and the emergence and empowerment of extremist and terrorist groups. Furthermore, the Iranian people have, over decades, experienced the true consequences of the United States' professed concern for their welfare. The historical record of the United States demonstrates a consistent pattern of intervention and coercion pursued under the pretext of “supporting the Iranian people.”

This record includes the orchestration of the 1953 coup d'état against the democratically elected Government of Dr. Mohammad Mossadegh, as well as tens of instances since 1979,

including the extensive political, military, and intelligence support provided to the Saddam regime in Iraq during its eight-year imposed war of aggression against Iran; the shooting down of Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988 over the Persian Gulf, resulting in the martyrdom of 290 innocent civilians; the cowardly assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani, a top commander of the Iranian Army and a central figure in the fight against terrorist organizations; the continued complicity with the Israeli regime in the assassination of Iranian military officials and scientists, acts of sabotage, and attacks against Iranian civilians and civilian infrastructure, including the war of aggression carried out in June 2025; and, over decades, the imposition of unilateral coercive measures and unilateral sanctions, resulting in grave and systematic violations of the fundamental human rights of the Iranian people, including the inherent right to life and development.

Against this backdrop, the Islamic Republic of Iran once again recalls the responsibility of the Secretary-General and the Security Council, and in particular its responsible members, under the Charter of the United Nations, to unequivocally and strongly condemn these reckless and provocative statements against Iran by the President of the United States as a serious violation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations; to demand that the United States immediately comply with its obligations under the Charter and international law, cease all threats or uses of force, and discharge its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally rejects and strongly condemns these reckless, interventionist, and inflammatory statements, and reaffirms its inherent right to defend its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security, and to protect its people against any foreign interference. Iran will exercise its rights decisively and proportionately. The United States of America bears full responsibility for any consequences arising from these unlawful threats and any ensuing escalation.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General
United Nations, New York
H.E. Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York

Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council

9 January 2026

No. 2781444-01

Excellencies,

Further to my letters dated 30 December 2025 and 2 January 2026, I am writing to you, upon the instructions of my Government, to express the Islamic Republic of Iran's strongest condemnation of the ongoing, unlawful, and irresponsible conduct of the United States of America, in coordination with the Israeli regime, in interfering in Iran's internal affairs through threats, incitement, and the deliberate encouragement of instability and violence.

In recent days, officials of the United States, in particular the U.S. President, have stood side by side with the criminal Prime Minister of the Israeli regime, issuing public statements framing Iran's domestic matters as requiring external "intervention," "rescue," or coercive political outcomes. The coordinated conduct of the United States and the Israeli regime is evident. Through inflammatory statements, political signaling, and public threats, they have encouraged violence, supported terrorist groups, incited societal destabilization, and sought to transform peaceful protests into violent disorder under the guise of "support," "rescue," or the "protection of the Iranian people."

Yet the Iranian people are fully aware of the true meaning of such rhetoric. Decades of hostile policies directed against the Iranian people, including the imposition of unilateral coercive measures and cruel unilateral sanctions, have gravely violated their fundamental human rights, including the rights to life and development. This dark record was further compounded by the 12-day war of aggression launched by the Israeli regime in June 2025, in which the United States played a leading role, targeting civilians, civilian infrastructure, and Iran's peaceful nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards, resulting in the martyrdom of more than 1,100 innocent people.

The Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects these destabilizing practices by the United States, which undermine the Charter of the United Nations, violate fundamental principles of international law, and threaten the very foundations of international peace and security. If left unchecked, such conduct would set a dangerous precedent and undermine the very basic international legal order upon which the United Nations is built.

No principle or norm of international law permits a State to incite violence, destabilize societies, or engineer disorder under the pretext of human rights or "support for the people." Such claims constitute a manifest distortion of international law and cannot be weaponized to justify coercion, threats, or interventionist policies. Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations

622 THIRD AVE, 34TH FL, NEW YORK, NY 10017 PHONE: +1 (212) 687 - 2020 EMAIL: IRANUNNY@MFA.GOV.IR WEBSITE: NY.MFA.GOV.IR

prohibits Member States from the use or threat of force in international relations against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, while Article 2(7) categorically precludes intervention in matters essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any Member State. These obligations are binding, not discretionary. International law further affirms that no State may intervene, directly or indirectly, in the internal or external affairs of another State, including through incitement, violence, or the destabilization of its constitutional order.

Furthermore, under the international law of State responsibility, a State bears accountability where its actions foreseeably cause serious harm. When senior officials of a Member State violate the very basic principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other Member States, publicly encourage unrest, legitimize violent escalation, and signal external backing for confrontation or the threat of force, the resulting harm is neither accidental nor incidental; it is deliberate and predictable. The transformation of peaceful protests into violent, subversive acts and widespread vandalism constitutes the direct and foreseeable consequence of such policies. Full responsibility for their consequences rests squarely and unequivocally with the United States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Permanent Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General

United Nations, New York

H.E. Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman

President of the Security Council

United Nations, New York

622 THIRD AVE, 34TH FL, NEW YORK, NY 10017 PHONE: +1 (212) 687 - 2020 EMAIL:
IRANUNNY@MFA.GOV.IR WEBSITE: NY.MFA.GOV.IR

Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council

13 January 2026

No. 2787602

Excellencies,

Upon the instructions of my Government, I wish to draw your immediate attention to a statement made today by the President of the United States, in which he openly incites violence inside Iran and threatens military intervention. Addressing Iranian protesters, he stated: "Iranian Patriots, KEEP PROTESTING — TAKE OVER YOUR INSTITUTIONS!!! ... HELP IS ON ITS WAY."

This reckless statement explicitly encourages political destabilization, incites and invites violence, and threatens the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It constitutes a flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the prohibition of the threat or use of force under Article 2(4) and the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States under Article 2(7). This interventionist rhetoric forms part of a continuing and escalating pattern aimed at political destabilization by the President of the United States over the recent weeks, during which he has repeatedly threatened the use of force against Iran, as documented in our previous communications dated 30 December 2025, 2 January 2026, and 9 January 2026.

The statement explicitly made today by the President of the United States, calling for the "taking over of institutions," must be understood in the context of the failure of the 12-day war of aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 2025, and as an integral component of a broader regime-change policy pursued through the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign, the escalation of unlawful unilateral sanctions, deliberate social and economic destabilization, the systematic spread of insecurity, and the incitement of young people to confront the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The United States and the Israeli regime bear direct and undeniable legal responsibility for the resulting loss of innocent civilian lives, particularly among the youth.

622 THIRD AVE, 34TH FL, NEW YORK, NY 10017 PHONE: +1 (212) 687 - 2020 EMAIL: IRANUNNY@MFA.GOV.IR WEBSITE: NY.MFA.GOV.IR

In light of these flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law by the United States and their grave consequences on the regional and international peace and security, the Islamic Republic of Iran urgently calls upon:

1. The Secretary-General, the Security Council, and, in particular, its responsible members to fulfill their Charter-based responsibilities by unequivocally condemning all forms of incitement to violence, threats to use force, and interference in Iran's internal affairs by the United States; urge the U.S. and the Israeli regime to immediately cease destabilizing policies and practices and to comply fully with their obligations under international law; and warn the U.S. against any

possible miscalculations to conduct any acts of military aggression against the Islamic republic of Iran; and

2. All Member States to refrain from provocative and irresponsible statements or actions that violate the Charter of the United Nations, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellencies, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Amir Saïd Iravani
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

I-I.E. Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General

United Nations, New York

H.E. Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman

President of the Security Council

United Nations, New York

622 THIRD AVE, 34TH FL, NEW YORK, NY 10017 PHONE: +1 (212) 687 - 2020 EMAIL:
IRANUNNY@MFA.GOV.IR WEBSITE: NY.MFA.GOV.IR

Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN Office and Other International Organizations in Geneva to High Commissioner on Human Rights

Ref. 2050/2782178

Geneva, 09 January 2026

Your Excellency,

Pursuant to the 2 January 2026 tweet from “@UN Human Rights,” quoting Your Excellency’s call on the authorities of my country to uphold the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly and reaffirming the right of all individuals to peaceful protest and expression, I would like to update Your Excellency on developments in Iran over the past week:

Domestic authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the Supreme Leader, the President, the Speaker of Parliament, the Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights, and other senior officials, have explicitly stated that they recognize the people’s right to peaceful protest and regard it as a legitimate right. In this context, the President has issued urgent directives aimed at addressing the livelihood and economic concerns of the population.

While we recognize peaceful protests as a legitimate right of the people, we strongly oppose the transformation of such protests into riots, disorder, or the commission of criminal acts and vandalism. Such actions endanger development and properties of the country.

Iran is situated in a sensitive geopolitical environment, where numerous hostile, destabilizing, and terrorist actors are poised to exploit internal conditions. Our security and intelligence institutions are fully aware of these risks and will operate accordingly. ISO, everyone should be careful that human rights and peaceful protests do not be misused by such dangerous elements.

In recent days, particularly following the attack on Venezuela, numerous provocative and inciting statements and interventions by officials of the Zionist regime have been disseminated. In certain areas, these interventions have contributed to the escalation of violence and the diversion of protests into violent confrontations. Under such circumstances, it is unreasonable to expect security forces and law enforcement agencies to remain passive, as they have an inherent duty to ensure public security and to protect the lives and property—both public and private—of citizens.

Certain external positions and statements, adopted without an accurate understanding of the realities of Iranian society, economic hurdles of the people that mostly originate from UCMs and Sanctions have widened the gap between the people and the government and have complicated the formation of constructive engagement between them. Such interventions convey to certain disruptive elements the impression that their actions, regardless of their nature, will be supported from abroad.

We call upon your excellency, your team in OHCHR and all those Special Procedures Mandate Holders who closely monitoring developments on the ground, to help prevent the transformation of peaceful protests into violence. Any form of violence inevitably produces destructive consequences and ultimately impedes the process of development. We also expect you, as well as officials of the United Nations and human rights bodies, that when expressing something about current developments in Iran, encourage the public to express their demands through lawful and peaceful assembly.

No country remains indifferent to the destruction of public facilities or acts of sabotage. The state is legally obliged to ensure public security, and preventing vandalism and damage to public property is a core responsibility of government. A government that fails to fulfill this duty is subject to serious criticism and accountability.

The government is also obliged to protect the right to life of all protesters, as well as of other citizens who may be harmed as a result of these protests. We have some news about the access of some protesters to smuggled weapons. If the Law Enforcement Forces don't appear strongly in the fields to protect peaceful protests, there is not clear what may weaponized elements do.

The government is actively working to ensure that protests proceed through peaceful means and has instructed officials to listen to and address the demands of the people. Channels for constructive dialogue between authorities and the public are being established, and in some areas, law enforcement has assisted citizens in conducting their protests in a peaceful manner.

It must be acknowledged that the principal concern of the population is economic hardship. One of the contributing factors to these difficulties is economic sanctions, a reality that should not be disregarded by your excellency and other related mandate holders.

Respectfully yours,

Ali BAHREINI



Volker TÜRK

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Geneva

CC: All UN Special Procedures Mandate Holders.

Letter by Iran's Ambassador to UN to Secretary General and Security Council

22 January 2026

No. 2797107

Excellency,

Upon instructions received from my Government, and following our previous letters dated 30 December 2025 and 2, 9, and 13 January 2026 concerning the deliberate interference of the United States of America in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its sustained campaign of coercion, destabilization, and incitement, I write further to draw your urgent attention to yet another explicit and public confession by a senior United States official, openly acknowledging that U.S. economic measures against Iran were deliberately designed to cripple the Iranian economy in order to provoke unrest within the country. On 21 January 2026, at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent stated in an interview: "It's worked because in December, their economy collapsed. We saw a major bank go under. The central bank has started to print money. There is a dollar shortage. They are not able to get imports, and this is why the people took to the streets."

This admission constitutes indisputable and incontrovertible evidence of the United States' direct and deliberate role in destabilizing the Islamic Republic of Iran, including by turning peaceful demonstrations into violent unrest through calculated economic warfare targeting ordinary and innocent civilians—a policy and course of conduct amounting to a crime against humanity. Furthermore, such an inflammatory and irresponsible statement flagrantly violates the principles of sovereignty, non-intervention, and political independence enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as fundamental norms of international law prohibiting coercive measures intended to destabilize States. The deliberate use of economic pressure to incite unrest and violence against civilians is both unlawful and criminal, thereby engaging the international responsibility of the United States.

We further emphasize that this interventionist statement by the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury forms part of a broader, ongoing pattern of political destabilization and the so-called regime-change agenda pursued by the United States. In recent weeks, the U.S. President has repeatedly threatened the use of military force against the Islamic Republic of Iran, explicitly called for regime change and acts of violence, and incited protesters to take over institutions.

Of particular gravity are the direct human costs and consequences of the United States' unlawful and interventionist policies. Between 8 and 12 January, innocent Iranian citizens lost their lives as a result of violence that was neither spontaneous nor internal in nature, but rather fuelled and exacerbated by armed and terrorist groups supported by the U.S. and the Israeli regime, in furtherance of a strategy of political destabilization. The U.S. bears full legal and moral responsibility for the foreseeable consequences of its destabilizing actions, including the loss of civilian lives and injuries, the undermining of Iran's stability and security, and the destruction

of public and private property.

In light of the consistent and continuing grave violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law by the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its call upon the Secretary-General, acting within his mandate under the Charter, to take due note of this explicit admission and to remind the U.S. of its binding obligations to cease threats, coercive measures, and unlawful interference in the internal affairs of other States, which constitute flagrant and ongoing breaches of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Amir Saeid Iravani
Ambassador
Permanant Representative

H.E. Mr. António Guterres Secretary-General
United Nations, New York

cc:

H.E. Mr. Abukar Dahir Osman
President of the Security Council
United Nations, New York

Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Statement on Violence During Recent Riots in Iran and Foreign Interference

The SCO expresses its deep concern over the recent tragic events in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which have resulted in the loss of lives of ordinary citizens and law enforcement officers, as well as the destruction of public and private properties.

In this regard, the SCO expresses its deepest condolences to the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The SCO notes that unilateral sanctions have had a significant negative impact on Iran's economic stability, have led to a deterioration in living conditions, and have objectively limited the ability of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to implement measures to ensure the country's socio-economic development.

The SCO declares its opposition to interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and adheres to the principles of respect for the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of states, and refraining from threat or use of force in international relations.

Statement by the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations on Riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran and Foreign Interference

1. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations strongly denounces and rejects the recent escalating unlawful acts by the United States of America and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the blatant threats to use force and their intervention in its domestic affairs.

2. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations further denounce the U.S. and Israeli blatant incitement to the commission of terrorist acts and violence against Iranian people and government, inter alia, the most recent U.S. provocative rhetoric and official statement made on 13 January 2026 expressly aiming to instigate and foment violence and terrorist acts inside Iran.

3. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations, while reiterating its categorical rejection to all acts of terrorism, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed, strongly condemns the horrific attacks carried out by foreign-backed terrorist elements in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and expresses its deep concern at the fact that such elements have ruthlessly killed and injured Iranian civilians, including children and law enforcement personnel, while severely destructing and damaging public and private properties.

4. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations recall that acts, methods, and practices of terrorism, in particular, terrorist attacks carried out against the Iranian people and government by foreign-backed elements, constitute a grave violation of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and, in this context, reaffirm the obligation to refrain from organizing, instigating, facilitating, financing or encouraging terrorist activities against State and/or their citizens.

5. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations underlines that the ongoing and unlawful acts of the United States of

6. America and Israel constitute flagrant violations of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental principles set forth therein, in particular, the prohibition of threat or use of force against the territorial integrity and political independence of States and

7. The Member States of the Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations emphasize that all such illegal conducts of the United States of America and Israel should be stopped forthwith, while cautioning against any adventurism aimed at fabricating pretexts for intervention in the domestic affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran or the use of force against it, and highlighting, in this context, the responsibility of the international community as a whole, the United Nations and its Secretary-General, to unequivocally condemn the irresponsible and illegal acts of the United States of America and Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

8. The Group of Friends in Defense of the Charter of the United Nations renews its unwavering solidarity with the People and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran – a fellow and founding member of the grouping – in the midst of the ongoing hostilities and heinous attacks against its sovereignty.

New York, 15 January 2026

Operation **Day Thirteen**

The January 2026 Riots in the Words of Foreign Analysts

Report Outline /	65
An Abnormal Pattern /	65
Direct Presence of Foreign Intelligence and Security Operatives on the Streets /	66
The 1953 Coup on Steroids /	68
Regime Change in Four Steps /	70
From hijacking the protest to inverted reality /	71
The trivialization of intelligence operations /	72
A Recipe for All Seasons of Chaos /	74
Inciting Violence, Setting the Stage for Foreign Military Intervention /	75
Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Front Organizations /	77
From Iranophobia to Counter-Iranism /	78
Five Decades of Misunderstanding /	80

Report Outline

This report offers an analysis of the January 2026 riots in Iran through the comments of a number of prominent foreign university professors, media figures, journalists, and independent analysts. The lines and between the lines of all the content examined on the one hand, and the pattern of publishing content that encouraged and incited the riots on the other, indicate a large-scale security project—in the media and on the streets—aimed at overthrowing the government in Iran.

There is no doubt that the designers and instigators of this American-Zionist sedition, who in 1953 succeeded in overthrowing Iran's democratically elected government—to restore the monarchy of Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi through a coup—are now, as the President of Serbia said, dreaming to repeat the same old version from 73 years ago. In an interesting speech Serbian President Aleksandar Vučić, considered the recent unrest in Iran to be the work of Mossad and the CIA and recommended reading the books "All the Shah's Men" and "Operation Ajax" to better understand the situation in Iran, because, according to him, "what is happening in Iran today is the activities of Mossad and the CIA, which are carrying out exactly the same version of what happened 73 years ago, and are seeking to repeat the Velvet Revolution in Iran."

Many political activists have explained this issue and stated on various platform that the United States and the Israeli regime are simply seeking to appoint a henchman in Iran and that what is of least importance to them is the lives of the Iranian people. In this regard, Ervand Abrahamian contends that the goals of this security project go beyond the military-political collapse of the government, but rather aim at the destruction of the State.

An Abnormal Pattern

A notable point about the extensive digital campaign that covered the January unrest is the analysis of data related to tweets published by accounts inciting unrest. By analyzing the data related to these accounts, Al Jazeera News Network concluded that this digital campaign did not originate organically from within Iran and was driven by foreign networks—mainly accounts affiliated with the Mossad. In this regard, Al Jazeera points to the unusual pattern of content distribution; meaning that 94 percent of the content (out of 4370 posts) was retweeted previous tweets and that new content was very scarce. Moreover, although the number of accounts that produced original content was fewer than 170 accounts, they managed to reach more than 18 million users!

The discourse spearheaded by these account portrayed developments inside Iran as a "moment of collapse" and relied on sharp binaries: "The People vs. The Regime", "Freedom vs. Political Islam" and "Iran vs. The Islamic Republic. Israel's direct involvement in highlighting Pahlavi has been quite obvious based on the analysis of social media accounts and public statements by regime officials. Posts published by regime officials were also quickly spread by this campaign. Another notable point was the description of the situation as an ideological war. The materials published by this campaign suggested that the fundamental issue was the struggle of the Persian people against an Islamist regime! All of this spin was also done with the ultimate goal of paving the way for foreign intervention in Iran and calling on the United States and the Israeli regime to invade Iran.

In general, the main themes of all the content that encourages and incites unrest and chaos can be summarized as explaining the direct presence of foreign intelligence

and security services in Tehran, distorting reality, using old versions of coups in other parts of the world in different periods, encouraging violence and paving the way for foreign interference, using cover organizations, and transitioning from Iranophobia to counter-Iranism, which are addressed in this report. The content under review was published in the same time period as the unrest in our country.

Direct Presence of Foreign Intelligence and Security Operatives on the Streets

Some current and former officials in the United States and the Israeli regime—fuming and venting over Iran-related matters in the past—have been brimming with joy for the unrest in Iran—hardly showing any restraint in speaking their mind and outlining their plots, directly speaking of the presence of Mossad forces on the streets of Tehran. Some other former security officials have also spoken openly about the involvement of Mossad, the CIA and the British intelligence service (MI6) in the unrest. In this regard, the Reuters news agency has confirmed that CIA agents are working in Iran. Also, a report from the Wall Street Journal has been highlighted, which refers to the creation of an “Iran Mission Center” within the CIA, which was established in 2017 and began operating with the aim of wreaking chaos and unrest in the country.

The hand of foreign services in the recent unrest has been so obvious that Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan stated that “the role of Mossad in the Iranian protests is obvious.” He asserted that “Mossad is clearly interfering in the recent developments in Iran and they themselves do not deny this in any way. We have witnessed Israel’s attempt to change the nature of the protests in Iran. However, despite all this, we hope that the Iranian government will soon resolve its internal challenges and not allow foreign elements to interfere in its internal affairs.”

John Kiriakou, a former CIA officer, takes stock of the facts and says: “Israeli officials have confirmed that the Mossad agitators have positioned themselves as people dissatisfied with the situation among the Iranian demonstrators. Israeli newspapers even brag about this.” He says in a video interview:

John Kiriakou

This morning, an Iranian living here told a close friend of mine that they are constantly hearing reports of thousands of people being killed, which is not true at all and that this has not happened. The demonstrations have been limited and on a small scale. Yes, some have lost their lives. Some have been killed by the police and others by the demonstrators themselves. But the important point is that –Israeli officials have confirmed it today—Mossad agents are also among the demonstrators, and the Israelis are actually bragging about it in their papers, and Mike Pompeo tweeted that the Israelis are also involved. They are setting fire trucks on fire; They go to fire stations and set fire to them with Molotov cocktails so that when they burn the buildings to incite people to riot, there is no one to put out the fire. This is actually one of the Israeli tactics, and it is a very famous one, by the way.

In one of the first reactions from a former senior US administration official, Mike Pompeo—who has spared no effort in expressing hostility towards the Iranian people and infamously sought to starve the Iranian people through sanctions—openly spoke about the presence of Mossad agents alongside protesters in the streets in a post he published on X. Pompeo’s remarks—who served as CIA director before taking over as US Secretary of State—have attracted considerable attention in foreign policy circles.



Commentary on the unrest was not limited merely to American security officials. Alastair Crook, in a video interview, expressed surprise at the level of violence displayed by the small group of protesters. A former British intelligence officer, MI6, and the Foreign Office, he believes the level of violence is intended to pave the way for military intervention. He believes the protests in Iran began organically but were hijacked by outside armed groups, including the MEK and Kurdish militants.

Alastair Crooke on The Cradle

One of the surprising things about this was the extreme violence of a small group of insurgents. For example, they would go to a gathering place—in fact, they would receive the order to go there from the NGOs and those who were in command of the operation—and they would grab one of the people who was just standing in the corner and just watching the events, and they would beat him to death! There were women standing around the team, filming the whole thing and shouting: “Go on! Beat him! Kill him! Burn him!” Of course, this would cause a larger crowd to gather, and more people would gather and say: “Kill him! He’s a dangerous person!” Naturally, the security forces would arrive and at that very moment, they would be shot at. If you were in this situation and you were shot at—it’s only in the movies that you know exactly where the bullet came from—you never know where it came from. You just know that a shot has been fired. The result is that the security forces also shoot back at the person they think is the one who started the incident, but the bullets hit ordinary people and there is a riot.

This is all by the playbook. Then they attack buses with full force—a group of twenty or thirty people suddenly attack a bus and destroy it; they attack mosques, libraries, government buildings and banks, and they burn banks to create the atmosphere they want and to show that the government is losing control of the situation, so if foreign intervention is accepted by the United States or Israel, then the ground is ready.

The 1953 Coup on Steroids

In another notable interview by a former US military official, Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson describes the recent unrest as a coup of August 1953 on steroid, empowered with the help of US and Israeli technology.

Lawrence Wilkerson on Judging Freedom Podcast

Trump is a killing machine. What they are doing is—I mean mainly the Mossad along with the CIA and MI6, who have Trump's support and money—they are acting as if it were Iranian citizens who are killing other citizens, burning down places, and looting. The situation today is exactly the same as in 1953 and the coup against Mossadegh, aided and abetted by advanced technology provided largely by the United States and Israel. That is the whole story of these "protests" in Iran. There are certainly genuine protests, there is no doubt about it; inflation is high and bread is not cheap, and if you are an ordinary Iranian, you can hardly make ends meet, but as much as the government has angered the people, the sanctions have played an equally important role—which, in my opinion, is the main cause of the Iranians' problems. Well, what we did was we sent the latest version of Kermit Roosevelt to Iran, and we failed, and now we're looking at the consequences of that failure. God knows what happens next.

The involvement of foreign services in the recent unrest has not escaped the attention of many. Some prominent academic figures, such as Jeffrey Sachs, have also commented on this issue. According to him, the unrest in Iran is the same pattern of intelligence services that has been used in the past.

Jeffrey Sachs on Judging Freedom Podcast

It's by the Playbook. We are watching a regime change operation being carried out in Iran, the goal of which is to overthrow another government. This is, of course, a particular form of warfare, one that the CIA and Mossad have used repeatedly in recent decades, and this style of warfare is now familiar to everyone. The method is to create chaos, bring people to the streets, cause casualties, and use this space inside the country to incite a coup, and if that doesn't work, claim to be protecting the people and intervene directly, which is what Trump threatens to do or announces he intends to do every few hours. We are seeing regime change operations being carried out right before our eyes. I must emphasize that these actions are deeply illegal and immoral. Those who claim that America should determine who rules where cause great loss of life, violence, and economic destruction, and create long periods of instability. Often, these actions lead to wars that drag on for years and that—as we have seen with Afghanistan and Iraq—can cost the American economy hundreds of billions or even trillions of dollars.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Columbia University professor Hamid Dabashi argued that Mossad agents are trying to divert attention from the genocide in Gaza by infiltrating the ranks of legitimate protesters in Iran.

Hamid Dabashi on Aljazeera

What we are seeing in Iran today is a protest that is rooted and motivated by Israel. Mossad agents are hiding among the protesters on the streets of Tehran. This point was also made by former CIA Director Mike Pompeo in his New Year's message to Iranians, and I quote here: in this message, he said, among other things, that "Mossad agents stand with the Iranians." In addition, in recent days, Israeli flags have been seen on several occasions with protesters in Tehran. What does this mean? Therefore, when we

Hamid Dabashi on Aljazeera

look at the current developments in Iran, we must be very careful and distinguish between legitimate protests by Iranians against their government due to economic issues and the imbalance between the dollar and the rial on the one hand, and protests incited by Israel for its own sinister goals on the other. So, why is Israel interested in Iran? The answer is simple: to distract attention from the ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the continued usurpation of Palestinian lands in the West Bank.

In another interview, Douglas McGregor, a retired US Army colonel, also points to evidence both inside and outside the US that corroborate the involvement of the three intelligence services of the US, the UK and the Israeli regime. According to him, the killing of people and police was part of the instructions for carrying out this joint intelligence operation.

Douglas Macgregor on SKIM INVERSION SHOW

We are witnessing a situation that lacks any strategic planning, thinking, or preparation before it execution. Everything is impulse-driven and on the spur of the moment; Trump wakes up and decides to do this or that, and his cabinet members are scurrying around trying to carry out the order. If you ask what actually happened? I think we thought there was an opportunity inside Iran to really disrupt the regime, or even bring it down. This was also because of the protests that occurred in Iran for economic reasons and the sharp fall in the value of the rial. What initially started in Iran were completely legitimate protests due to economic conditions. Then the unrest became a joint CIA/Mossad/MI6 operation.

What they did was bring thousands of Starlink terminals and large amounts of money into Iran, which in such a situation could certainly attract some to this operation. Now we have a lot of evidence, both outside and inside the United States, that some armed individuals in the crowd were ordered to shoot directly at the police, in order to provoke the police to return fire. This was done in the hope of causing deaths, thereby further worsening the situation. They did all of this, and it failed.

Regime Change in Four Steps

One of the most prominent figures who has spoken about the US effort to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Iran is John Mearsheimer, a renowned professor of international relations. He has described the unrest in Iran as a classic example of a four-stage regime change operation.

John Mearsheimer on DANIEL DAVIS DEEP DIVE SHOW

What is happening in Iran is a classic example of regime change, largely driven by the US and Israel. When the protests first started and we were looking at the sensational stories in the Western media, they showed a large number of people inside Iran who were deeply unhappy with the regime; that it was mismanaged; and that it was time to overthrow it, not just protest! From a Western perspective, such a story makes perfect sense; who here is happy with the regime that is in Iran? That was the story that was being told in the West. Now, I think it is clear that this story is not accurate. What we are seeing in Iran is a direct result of the CIA and Mossad's instructions for regime change.

Let me explain what I mean. We basically have a four-part strategy, and the use of the U.S. military is the fourth step of that! But first, let me introduce you to the first three parts of that strategy.

The first step is to impose sanctions on a country, destroy their economy, and do everything we can to deeply upset the core of society in that country, because it is the people who are suffering. We punish the people with these sanctions; just as we did in Venezuela, just as we did in Iran. Let's not forget that when it comes to these people protesting, they are protesting a terrible economic situation. So, who is causing this terrible economic situation? The United States of America is causing this. That's step one!

In step two, we decide to incite protests somewhere along the way and pour gasoline on the fire of people's anger; just like we did in Iran in late December last year. Now there is all the evidence. A famous article was written in the Jerusalem Post the day after the Iranian protests, leaving no doubt that Mossad was deeply involved in the developments that were taking place in Iran. You can also see the comments of President Trump, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, which clearly indicated that America was involved from the very beginning—in the form of fanning the flames of the protests. Also, note that when the Iranians cut off the internet and blocked telecommunications services, the protesters turned to Starlink systems! It was discovered that there were 40,000 Starlinks in Iran! Who do you think provided them with these devices? Of course, we know the answer to that question. So the second step was to incite and spread the protests, the final stop of which is revolution and regime change.

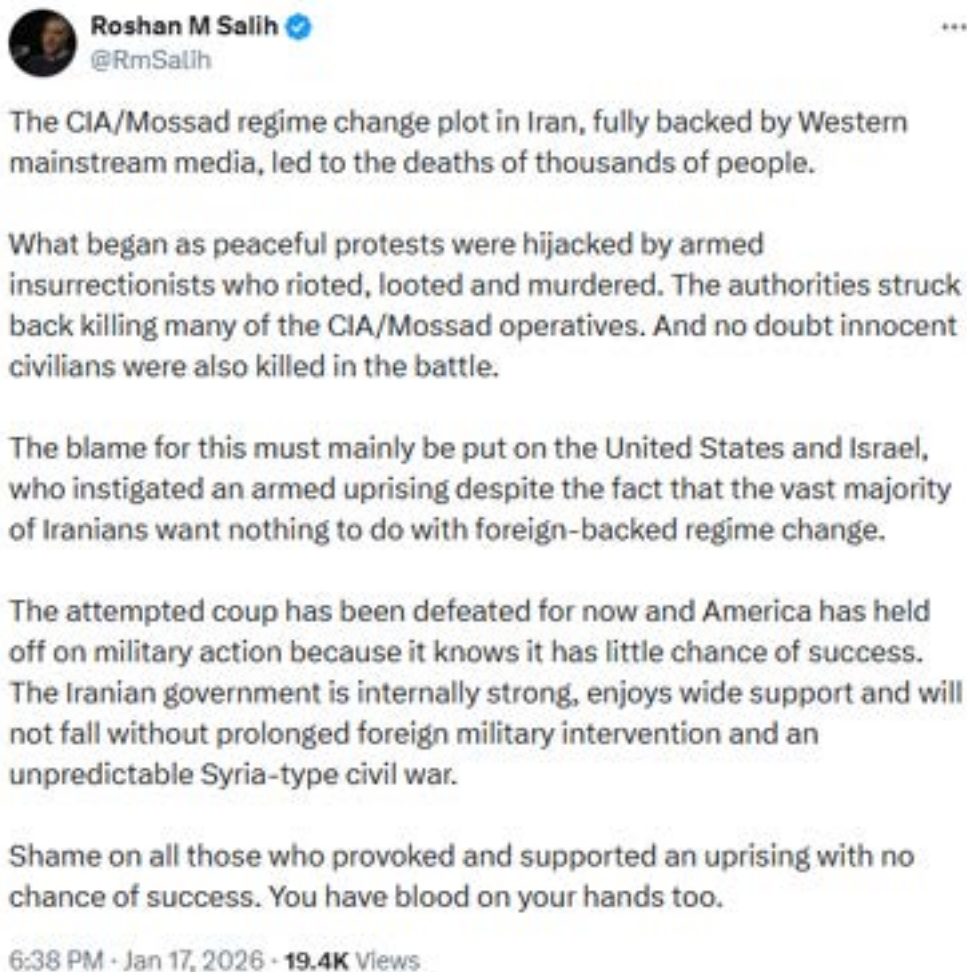
The third step in this process is to create a disinformation campaign to convince everyone in the West that these are domestic protests and that America and Israel have nothing to do with it, and that the protesters are noble patriots and that America should support them. In addition, this disinformation campaign also sends the message inside Iran that the regime is done for, that the protests are on the rocks, and that the regime is unable to contain or stop them; this time it is different! What we are doing is creating the necessary momentum inside Iran with this disinformation campaign.

Then we come to the fourth step; which is the entry of the American and possibly Israeli military into the situation when the unrest has reached a certain level. We attack all kinds of infrastructure and personalities inside Iran and deliver the coup de grace and finish the regime off. This operation is completely in line with their working principles. The exact same version was in Venezuela.

Let me make one final point: this operation failed in Iran.

From hijacking the protest to inverted reality

The protests that took place in parts of Tehran's bazaar in early January against inflation and exchange rate fluctuations were quickly hijacked by foreign security agencies—specifically the Mossad and the CIA—, using their immense resources to spin narratives in cyberspace, to try to control the narrative, and ultimately to change the nature of this social change and turn it into a platform for violent subversive actions. In this regard, Mr. Roshan Saleh, the news editor of the 5pillarsuk.com website and author of the book “Confessions of a Muslim Journalist,” revealed part of this campaign a post on X.



In this regard, a former CIA officer, Larry Johnson, in an online news interview, described the recent unrest as an intelligence operation aimed at paving the way for a US military invasion of Iran and pointed out the following interesting points:

Larry Johnson on The INTEL Roundtable

We are facing the failure of the joint CIA-Mossad operation that began on December 28. In this atmosphere, Volodymyr Zelensky meets with Trump, just 24 hours before Trump meets with Netanyahu! The security agencies—knowing that this would lead to anti-government demonstrations—had implemented a plan to collapse the Iranian currency. Of course, there are those who say, no!!!! How could the CIA do such a thing?!!! Just so you know, George Soros did the same thing to the British economy a few

Larry Johnson on The INTEL Roundtable

years ago! So, if one person, Soros, can do such a thing to the economy the size of Brits, it is not surprising that the security agencies, with the support of the US Treasury, can do the same thing to Iran, and they did, and it led to protests. Meanwhile, the Western media was also saying that these developments were organic and that these are the people who have risen up against the oppression of the mullahs.

This story is nonsense! Because the security agencies had already deployed the Starlink terminals, thanks to Elon Musk, and these terminals did not just fall from the sky! No! These devices were purchased through the security agencies and distributed among people associated with these institutions inside Iran. There are also numerous groups in Iran: from the Kurds to the MKO and Baluch groups. In this way, they found a group of people who had problems with the government and provided them with this equipment, in addition to weapons, ammunition and money, and then the attack operation began, which continued until late last Thursday, when Iran, with the help of Russia, took control of the situation and, using electronic warfare and disrupting the Internet, took the Starlink systems out. As soon as Starlink were down, the coordination and operational capacity of these elements was also lost. Then the Iranian security forces moved in and put an end to the incident. All this planning by the Western security agencies was to hit the peak of violence by Thursday and end with a US military strike, because by this point [according to their calculations] the Iranian regime has become so discredited that it will collapse with this attack. All this was disrupted and that was the reason why Trump backed down from the attack. Of course, they have no intention of ending the attack on Iran! This will happen, probably in late February or March!

The trivialization of intelligence operations

Another line of action, as exemplified by the New York Times, was to trivialize complex security and intelligence operations. For example, the outlet claimed in a report that a ragtag network of activists, computer programmers, and engineers managed to penetrate Iran's digital wall and—using thousands of Starlink systems secretly smuggled into Iran—released images of security forces shooting in the streets and families searching for bodies. This style of reporting, and the reduction of a complex operation to spontaneous actions, has caught the attention of some journalists on X. Jeremy Loffredo responded to the New York Times report in a sarcastic post:

The New York Times

Yet a ragtag network of activists, developers and engineers pierced Iran's digital barricades. Using thousands of [Starlink satellite internet systems](#) that they had quietly smuggled into the country, they got online and spread images of troops firing into the streets and families searching for bodies.

"This is the most severe internet shutdown that we have experienced," said **Ahmad Ahmadian**, an exiled activist who was also involved in smuggling the satellite internet systems into Iran. "Starlink is a lifeline."

Encouraged by the success, **Mr. Ahmadian said, he helped build a smuggling network**. Clustering on Telegram channels and other online platforms, merchants sold Starlink units and coordinated delivery routes through the United Arab Emirates, Iraqi Kurdistan, Armenia and Afghanistan.

The roughly 50,000 Starlink terminals now in Iran are hidden on rooftops and discreet locations. Developers have built tools so a Starlink connection can be shared, turning a single terminal into a gateway for others farther away.



A Recipe for All Seasons of Chaos

Other activists and writers have highlighted another point about the recent unrest and its coverage by the mainstream media, comparing it to developments in previous decades. Among them, one can mention the comparison of reporting on Tiananmen Square in 1989 and Tehran in 1995. Nuri Vitaci has published the following article in this regard:

Tiananmen Square, 1989	Tehran, 2026
Western disinformation sources release fake report saying 10,000+ peaceful protesters killed by government	Western disinformation sources release fake report saying 12,000+ peaceful protesters killed by government
Home govt says central protest area was peaceful, but several hundred were killed in clashes elsewhere	Home govt says central protest area was peaceful, but several hundred were killed in clashes elsewhere
Western media prefers fake report, circulates that narrative widely	Western media prefers fake report, circulates that narrative widely
Eyewitnesses deny western report, say significant portion of violence was started by people among protest groups	Eyewitnesses deny western report, say significant portion of violence was started by people among protest groups
Later, historians conclude fake report of massacre came from western sources, while home govt report and eyewitnesses were telling the real story	Later, historians will conclude fake report of massacre came from western sources, while home govt report and eyewitnesses were telling the real story

Inciting Violence, Setting the Stage for Foreign Military Intervention

The CIA and Mossad's digital campaign to incite and encourage unrest has had two fundamental goals: encouraging armed violence against security forces at home on the one hand, and inciting public opinion, thereby preparing the ground for foreign intervention on the other. In one of the first clear examples of armed intervention inside the country, Euronews Farsi reported, "a representative of the Kurdistan Freedom Party claimed in an interview with the Associated Press that the party's armed wing, the Kurdistan National Army, has played a role in the ongoing protests in Iran through financial support and armed operations to defend the protesters." In a similar article, published by the online magazine The Cradle, Kurdish separatist militias have claimed responsibility for attacking security forces during the unrest.

What has clearly exposed the conspiracy from the American networks is a report published by a CBS reporter. In this program, the network's reporter, who was present in the mountainous areas bordering our country in Iraqi Kurdistan, prepared a report on Kurdish terrorist groups. It is interesting to note the text of this television report and the effort of this American network to portray people who are openly wearing military uniforms as tolerant:

CBS News

Today we have come to northern Iraq, a mountainous region about 30 miles from the Iranian border, to meet with an unlawful, armed Iranian opposition group. The group is called the Democratic Party of Kurdistan of Iran. Many of the members of the group are women [The report shows a woman with a nose patch, signifying a recent nose job surgery] and they are ready for the day when the regime is overthrown. Their dream is a democratic Iran [A woman with a smiling face appears in the picture.]

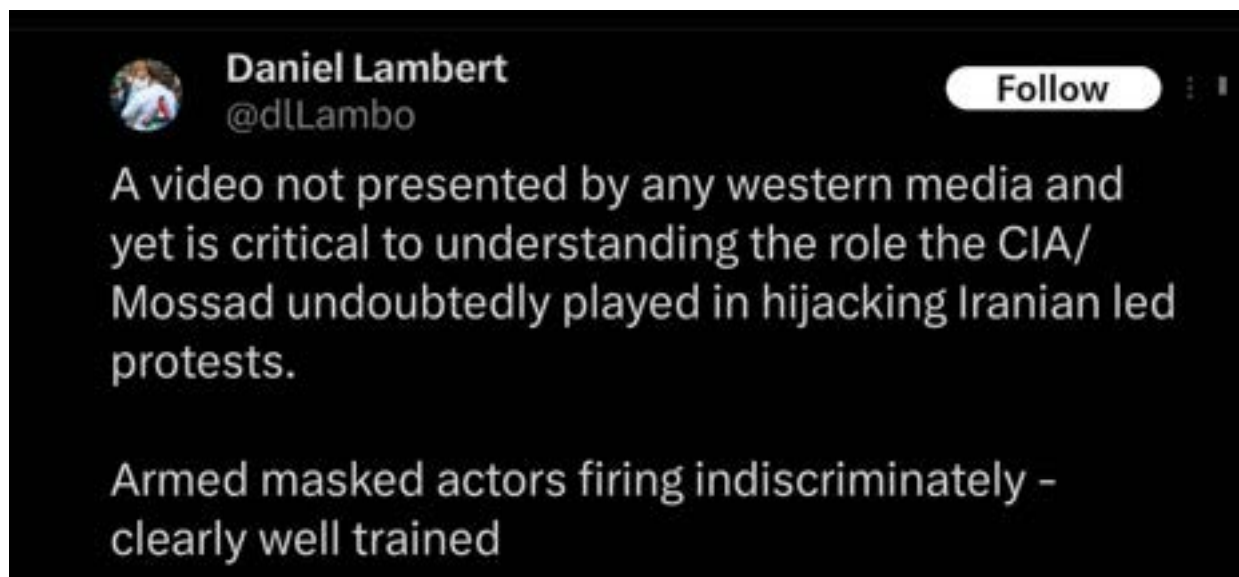
They represent the Kurdish ethnic minority, which makes up about 10 percent of Iran's population. According to Siran Gargouli, one of the group's commanders, despite the horrific violence, the recent demonstrations in Iran have given them hope because they have shown that the regime can be overthrown—especially with international help. Of course, there is a big question mark about international help. Trump has been threatening to strike Iran hard for days, but yesterday he said he had received assurances that the killings in Iran was going to stop and that there would be no executions; he also said he would monitor the process.

Of course, we are also monitoring this process and what is happening in Iran, and one of the things we are following is the extent to which these protests have weakened the Iranian regime.

This conspiracy did not go unnoticed by other observers and reporters. California-based journalist Jimmy Dore wrote in a post on the X:



Other accounts have made similar points, citing various videos showing the presence of trained gunmen among ordinary people. Daniel Lambert, a former UN diplomat and political activist, writes on X:



The prominent role these individuals played in the violence has quickly become a focus for observers. In interviews with ordinary people who witnessed the riots, the Financial Times reported that:



Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Front Organizations

Another prominent trend among the published materials and active analysts in this field has been the close relationship of many so-called non-governmental organizations, human rights organizations, think tanks, etc. with security institutions, specifically the CIA and Mossad. In other words, the one link in all of this analysis has been these two security institutions—a topic that has been well-noted by activists and observers in this field. One of the independent news networks, Mint Press News, has paid attention to this point by publishing a post on X:



One function of these organizations is spinning narrative, and the most important tool they have is playing with numbers and creating fake statistics. Manar Adli addressed this issue on Mint Press News and explained the dimensions of such a campaign in a video post.

Manar Adley | MintPress News

*The corporate Western media outlets publish and repeat figures of mass arrests and casualties distributed by the Iranian diaspora. But we at this news agency have traced all this news to one active human rights source, HRANA, which is a branch of the Iranian Human Rights Agency. According to our investigations, HRANA is funded by a CIA subsidiary, the National Endowment for the Defense of Democracies (NED). They have become the main source for some of the most sensational claims—such as the shocking death toll—in the Western media. In the past week alone, their figures have been repeated by CNN, the Wall Street Journal, NPR, ABC News, Sky News, and the New York Post. Even independent liberal commentators have repeated these figures as fact. But **what they never acknowledge is the funding pipeline that connects these human rights activists to the CIA.***

The pro-democracy NGO (HRANA) describes itself as independent, but its headquarters are not in Iran but in Fairfax, Virginia. The group's website states that it is not political, and even claims that it does not accept financial contributions from political groups or governments, but it acknowledges that its main sponsor is the National Endowment for the Defense of Democracies—a foundation set up by the CIA to covertly do what the CIA once did openly. The Iranian Human Rights Activists Group is not the only NGO to make headlines in Western news. Another organization that is often cited is the Abdolrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights. Its director is Roya Boroumand. Although the center is also reluctant to disclose its financial affiliation, they have also been supported by the National Endowment for the Defense of Democracies. A press release from the National Endowment for Defense of Democracies in 2024 listed the Boroumand Center as a partner organization that the foundation awarded its director, Ms. Boroumand, with the 2024 Guler T. Boucher Medal for Democracy. The statement also said that the foundation is proud to support the Boroumand Center's work toward what it described as "a democratic future for Iran."

So, when major Western media outlets present these organizations as neutral, and use them to justify the escalation of the situation, the Western narrative of sanctions, and regime change and pressure, remember that their reports of alleged human rights violations, inflated casualty figures, and mass arrests are repeated by Western media outlets in order to create the artificial consent necessary for regime change and to psychologically manipulate the Iranian diaspora.

From Iranophobia to Counter-Iranism

If we look at the developments of the last decade through the lens of Western journalism, we can easily see the Western dominance of Iran-related narratives in the media space; a dominance that is transitioning from the Iranophobia of previous decades into a form of counter-Iranism. Iranophobia can be considered a complementary aspect of Iran's securitization project, which reduces the costs of any action against Iran and facilitates the persuasion of public opinion for Western warmongers.

In this context, Scott Ritter, in an interview with Jimmy Dore, explains the issue of spreading hatred of Iran well. According to Ritter, the deep State in the West is fueling hatred of Iran. He describes this Iranophobic narrative as follows:

Scott Ritter on Jimmy Dore Show

We blame Iran for the bombing of the US Marine Corps base in Beirut, which killed 241 soldiers and crew. Iran supported Shiite insurgents in Iraq in 2004 and 2005, which killed 600 or 700 American soldiers. Of course, we [Americans] don't like to admit that we invaded and occupied Iraq, and that the Iraqis have the right to defend themselves. We're just saying that Iran caused the deaths of these soldiers. The American people have been conditioned and programmed to believe anything negative about Iran. And that's why these NGOs are successful in cyberspace, repeating the same lie over and over and over again; it's really like Joseph Goebbels said, repeat the same lie over and over again, and people often believe it.

You and I are dealing with the same people; We work with security people who ask these same questions. But they are not representative of the majority of the American people; the majority of the American people work two jobs to make ends meet, and when they come home at night they are tired and worn out and don't have the time to investigate deeply. That is why they have become prisoners of the news media. The majority of the news media has either become the servants of the deep State or repeat the same secret government agenda.

That is the message that the majority of Americans are getting. I hope they see this show and realize that all this stuff they are seeing on the news is nothing but lies. But if we bomb Iran tonight, it will be too late. It is too late, because Americans are going to die in this war and our economy is going to suffer! We have to stand up against this war. We should have done something to stop it before it got to this point. Unfortunately, we couldn't, because too many Americans believe the nonsense that is being spread by the deep State through the media they control.

In another interview, Roger Waters, appearing on Morgan Pierce's show, points out that the problem is that Iran is standing up to the West and is the only country left on the list of seven countries that America intended to destroy. He says in this interview:

Roger Waters on Morgan Piers Show

I am philosophically very close to the Iranian people, and this is something that you have neglected. The entire Iranian people are completely united in their opposition to foreign interference in the internal affairs of their country. Of course, this opposition also includes opposition to all the sanctions against Iran that have caused this huge inflation.

[Morgan Pierce: Why do you think Iran is being sanctioned?]

Because the last country is the same list that Paul Wolfowitz and Wesley Clark at the US Department of Defense once defined. This list includes countries that America intends to destroy in order to take over the world. Iran is the last country standing, and they have destroyed the other six; there were seven countries on this list.

[Morgan Pierce: Of course, the reason for the sanctions on Iran is that there is no question that Iran is the main sponsor of terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East. From the Houthis to Hezbollah to Hamas]

Roger Waters on Morgan Piers Show

[Laughing and sarcastically adding]: Their actions in Palestine! What nonsense are you talking about? Freedom fighters in every country are terrorists in another country!

In an interview with the BBC, Ervand Abrahamian analyzed our country's foreign policy and convincingly showed that the main problem lies in Washington and that the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown the necessary flexibility in its foreign policy. He presents this analysis that the US government, under pressure from Israel, seeks the destruction of Iran, not simply the fall of the government. He says in this interview:

Ervand Abrahamian on BBC Farsi

You present the issue as if the Iranian government is behind the scenes and can do whatever it wants. In general, the issue is more complicated than these words. Iran has been flexible in its foreign policy and the main problem is in Washington.

[Farnaz Ghazizadeh: Do you mean in the last few years, not, for example, in the last twenty years?]

Even in the past, during the presidency of Mr. Rafsanjani and Mr. Khatami, Iran approached the United States, and it was the United States that did not want to talk and set the condition that Iran not have a nuclear program. The situation changed when the US position changed and agreed to a nuclear program on the condition of verification, and Iran also accepted.

But then it was the US government that withdrew from the agreement; therefore, we have to see what the motivation of the Trump administration and Israel is now? Are they really seeking to adjust Iran's behavior? Or are they seeking to destroy the government or even Iran itself? My understanding is that the Trump administration, under pressure from the Israelis, is seeking to destroy Iran, not just the government, but the State!

Five Decades of Misunderstanding

Other analysts and media figures have widened their analytical lens beyond recent developments to a deeper reality about Washington's policies toward Tehran. Colonel Thorne, a retired U.S. Army officer, has pointed out that after 45 years of sanctions, threats, assassinations, cyberattacks, proxy wars, and diplomatic isolation, the Islamic Republic of Iran is still standing on its own two feet and is not willing to surrender to the United States.

Colonel Thorne

There is a truth about Iran that no one in Washington is willing to admit. After 45 years of sanctions, threats, assassinations, cyberattacks, proxy wars, and diplomatic isolation, the Islamic Republic of Iran is still standing, refusing to kneel to American demands. To me, this means only one thing: that we have a fundamental problem understanding the reality we are facing. Because if you have applied maximum pressure for half a century and the subject of pressure is still on its feet, your strategy probably didn't work; maybe your assumptions about the effects of pressure on the subject's submission are wrong; maybe Iran is not going to collapse just because we wish it to.

But instead of learning from 45 years of strategic failure, we continue to double down on the same wrong path and expect different results. This is not strategy at all, but

Colonel Thorne

the application of madness to foreign policy, and it is opening the door to a global conflict that, once started, no one will be able to control.

Let me tell you something about Iran's strategic culture that most Americans don't understand. We are dealing with a civilization that has survived Mongol invasions, Ottoman expansionism, British colonialism, Soviet pressure, and American sanctions for longer than most countries have existed. The Iranians don't think in terms of quarterly incomes and election cycles, but about centuries and civilizational survival! When we talk about regime change, what Iranians understand is not simply a policy that will change with the next administration; they treat it as an existential threat to their civilization that—regardless of the cost—requires total resistance. When we sanction them, they don't see the sanctions as economic pressure that leads to rational compromise; they see the sanctions as a military siege and they adopt a siege mentality.

That's why economic pressure hasn't worked. That's why diplomatic isolation hasn't worked. That's why campaigns of terror and war haven't worked. Because you can't force a civilization to give up its independence under pressure; you can only force them to choose between surrender and total resistance.

The Role of the United States and the Zionist Regime in the Escalation of Violence during the Recent Protests in the Islamic Republic of Iran



Summary

On Sunday, 28 December 2025 (corresponding to 7 Dey 1404), following an increase in the exchange rate, a number of trade-related protest gatherings were organized by some shopkeepers in Tehran's Grand Bazaar. These gatherings were motivated by economic concerns and were held in response to the negative impact of currency fluctuations on commercial activities, purchasing power, and economic security. The primary demand of the participants was the restoration of stability in the market and the adoption of effective measures to control volatility in this sector.

From the outset, these gatherings were peaceful, professional in nature, and demand-oriented. Participants sought to express their concerns calmly and without disrupting public order.

However, a significant portion of the peaceful and entirely lawful protests held by some merchants and members of the public in response to the country's economic conditions were, from 8 January onward, exploited as a result of foreign interference by certain individuals and groups. Consequently, these events were diverted toward violence and unrest, which bore no connection to the legitimate economic demands of the protesters and were neither endorsed nor supported by the overwhelming majority of the Iranian people.

This report examines the initial foreign interventions by certain foreign officials and the Zionist regime.



Respect for and Protection of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly



The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its commitment to its obligations under international human rights law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), with respect to the protection and respect of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. These rights are guaranteed under the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the domestic legal framework and are recognized as fundamental components of public participation in social and economic affairs.

Foreign Interventions

At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its deep concern regarding the clear and escalating foreign interference in its internal affairs and the recent protests. The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the interventionist statements made by the President of the United States and other American officials concerning Iran's domestic affairs. Such unlawful positions constitute a blatant violation of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, particularly the principles of sovereignty and non-intervention, and in practice amount to encouragement of violence and terrorism against Iranian citizens.

Recalling the long-standing record of criminal interference by successive U.S. administrations in Iran's internal affairs, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers any claim of concern for the Iranian people to be hypocritical and aimed at misleading public opinion and concealing extensive crimes committed against Iranians. The downing of Iran Air Flight 655 in 1988, resulting in the deaths of 300 innocent civilians; complicity with the Zionist regime in attacks on safeguarded nuclear facilities and critical infrastructure of Iran in June 2025; acts of assassination and intimidation against Iranian nationals; and decades of illegal and inhumane sanctions targeting the fundamental rights and livelihoods of the Iranian people constitute clear and undeniable evidence of hostility toward Iran and its people.



Donald J. Trump  
@realDonaldTrump

If Iran shoots and violently kills peaceful protesters, which is their custom, the United States of America will come to their rescue. We are locked and loaded and ready to go. Thank you for your attention to this matter! President DONALD J. TRUMP

134 ReTruths 400 Likes 1/2/26, 11:28 AM

This reality has been repeatedly acknowledged and admitted by the President of the United States, who has on several occasions publicly stated that he was responsible for managing and directing the military attack against Iran in June 2025.

Economic Pressures Resulting from the Imposition of Unilateral Coercive Measures against the Iranian People

The Islamic Republic of Iran further emphasizes that the widespread imposition of unilateral coercive measures has had a direct and negative impact on the enjoyment by the Iranian people of their economic, social, and cultural rights. These unlawful measures have intensified economic pressures on ordinary citizens.



The criminal Prime Minister of the Zionist regime has made overtly interventionist remarks regarding Iran's internal developments while portraying himself as sympathetic to the Iranian people. Such claims are particularly deceptive in light of the aggressive actions of this regime against Iran and the martyrdom of more than 1,100 innocent Iranian civilians. Decades of criminal actions by the Zionist regime against the Iranian people—often carried out in coordination with its partners—cannot be concealed through verbal maneuvering or hypocritical posturing.



It is evident that the Zionist regime seeks to exploit every opportunity to sow division within Iranian society and undermine national cohesion. Statements and actions by figures such as the criminal Prime Minister of this regime, as well as certain extremist and hardline American officials, in practice amount to incitement to violence, terrorism, and criminal acts. The Iranian people are fully aware of the true intentions behind such behavior and will not be deceived by these narratives.



While the Islamic Republic of Iran considers itself fully committed to supporting and protecting its citizens' right to peaceful and lawful protest, it is equally obligated to prevent threats to public security. Accordingly, it must adopt the necessary legal and preventive measures to counter any form of violence that endangers the lives, property, or psychological well-being of citizens and society. Within this framework, the rights of millions of peaceful Iranians will not be undermined due to the actions of a very limited number of violent individuals. Furthermore, no political, human rights, or international authority should expect law enforcement agencies to remain indifferent to armed or violent acts occurring simultaneously with or alongside peaceful gatherings, or to allow perpetrators of violence to freely impose damage, harm, or costs on society and peaceful protesters.



An example of the Zionist regime's so-called "support" for the Iranian people includes the missile attack on Tajrish Square in Tehran (during the 12-day military aggression by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Iranian people – June 2025).

From Peaceful Protests to Riots and Violent and Terrorist acts

The occurrence of social unrest has today become part of the everyday reality of societies across the world. Peaceful protests must be supported. Naturally, when protests move beyond a peaceful framework and become contrary to public order, public health, and public security, governments adopt measures to control the situation.

On Sunday, 28 December 2025 (corresponding to 7 Dey 1404), following an increase in the exchange rate, trade-related protest gatherings were formed by some shopkeepers in Tehran's Grand Bazaar. From the outset, these gatherings were peaceful in nature, professional and demand-oriented, and participants sought to raise their demands in a calm manner without disrupting public order.

However, from 18 Dey onward, a significant portion of these protests departed from their peaceful nature and took on the character of riots and destruction.

Violence-seeking rioters hijacked the people's livelihood-related protests and diverted them from their original path. The scale of destruction, the intensity of violence, the armed nature of the core groups, the planned and premeditated attacks on government, private, religious, medical, transportation facilities, and shops, as well as the overall level of violence, indicated a clear and organized plan to create unrest and insecurity in the country.

Respect for and Protection of the Rights to Freedom of Expression and Peaceful Assembly

The right to peaceful assembly is recognized both in the Constitution and in legal system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As long as participants do not resort to actions against security, public order, or the destruction of public and private property, they are supported. In this regard, international human rights norms, including Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), consider the peaceful nature of an assembly as the determining characteristic for its protection.

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes its commitment to obligations arising from international human rights law, including the ICCPR, with regard to respecting and protecting the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. These rights are guaranteed in the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran and within the domestic legal framework, and are recognized as essential elements of public participation in social and economic affairs.

Every year in Iran, numerous peaceful protests and gatherings are held by the public without any problems. However, what occurred in recent days was not peaceful assembly, but rather riots and terrorist acts carried out by a small group of rioters, supported by the United States and the Zionist regime, incited by certain media outlets affiliated with hostile countries, and accompanied and guided by terrorist groups. During these events, they did not hesitate for a moment—from killing and injuring innocent people to destroying public and private property and imposing enormous costs on the nation.

During the riots, many public and private properties were set on fire or looted. A considerable number of law enforcement personnel and ordinary citizens were killed or injured as a result of gunfire by rioters and their use of bladed weapons. Civil administrative centers and public service facilities—such as banks, ATMs, ambulances transporting patients, public transportation, police vehicles, fire engines, and religious sites, many of which were destroyed also police stations or burned—were subjected to organized and widespread attacks.

The criminal actions of the rioters, aimed at causing significant damage to public and private property, constitute violations of the right to property, freedom of movement, safety and security, the right to work, physical and mental health, and the right to access public services. It is therefore evident that under such circumstances, law enforcement officers are obligated, in the performance of their legal duties, to take appropriate lawful measures to preserve and ensure safety, security, and public order.

It is self-evident that the use of weapons and terror-inducing equipment, resorting to violence against the public and the police, attacking public, governmental, and private properties and facilities, and setting them on fire, do not constitute peaceful protest and give rise to legal responsibility. Under these conditions, the police of the Islamic Republic of Iran are legally obligated to restore public order and security for all citizens.

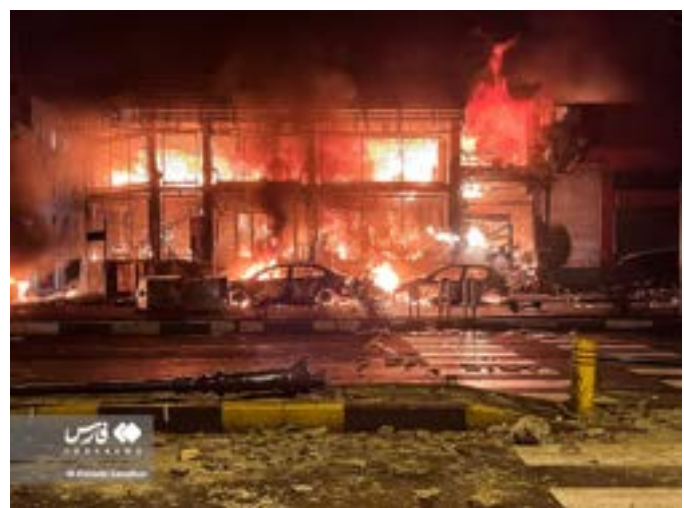
The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in confronting riots and threats against internal security is the minimal use of force. In the current situation, it was the rioters who, taking advantage of the restraint and tolerance of forces confronting the unrest, resorted to maximum violence against those responsible for maintaining public order and even entered a military and armed phase.

Intervention of Foreign Actors

In this context, the United States and some Western countries, by employing all their capabilities and tools, engaged in completely unconventional actions and in violation of international norms by intervening in this matter and openly interfering in Iran's internal affairs in support of the rioters. Statements by officials of the United States and certain Western countries clearly demonstrate the role of foreign actors, provocations, and activities of some governments in the continuation and escalation of the recent riots.

Some Images and Documentation Related to ISIS-like and Terrorist Actions of the Rioters

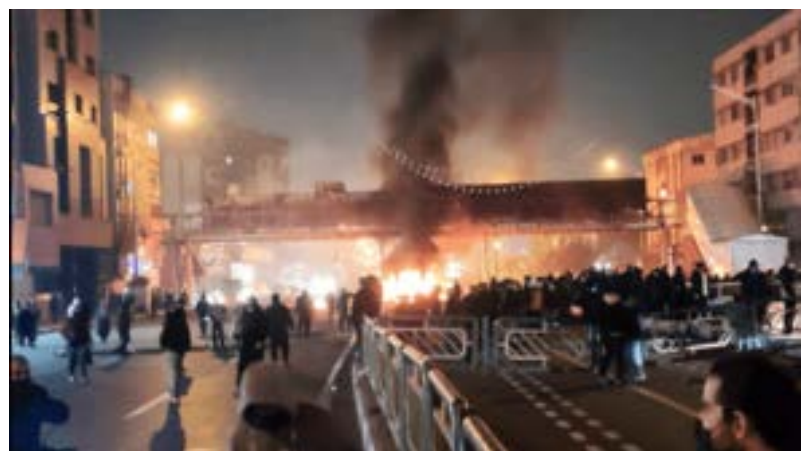
During the violent riots, numerous public and private places and properties were set on fire or looted. These included systematic and widespread attacks on nonmilitary administrative and public service centers such as banks, ATMs, ambulances (despite transporting patients), public transportation vehicles, police cars, fire engines, and religious sites, many of which were destroyed or burned. In addition, a large number of private cars, motorcycles, and residential homes were also set on fire by rioters. According to the Mayor of Tehran, some of the damages in the capital included the destruction and burning of 42 buses, public vehicles, and ambulances, 10 government institutions, and 24 residential homes. Furthermore, more than 70 mosques, husseiniyehs, and religious centers were also destroyed and set on fire by rioters.













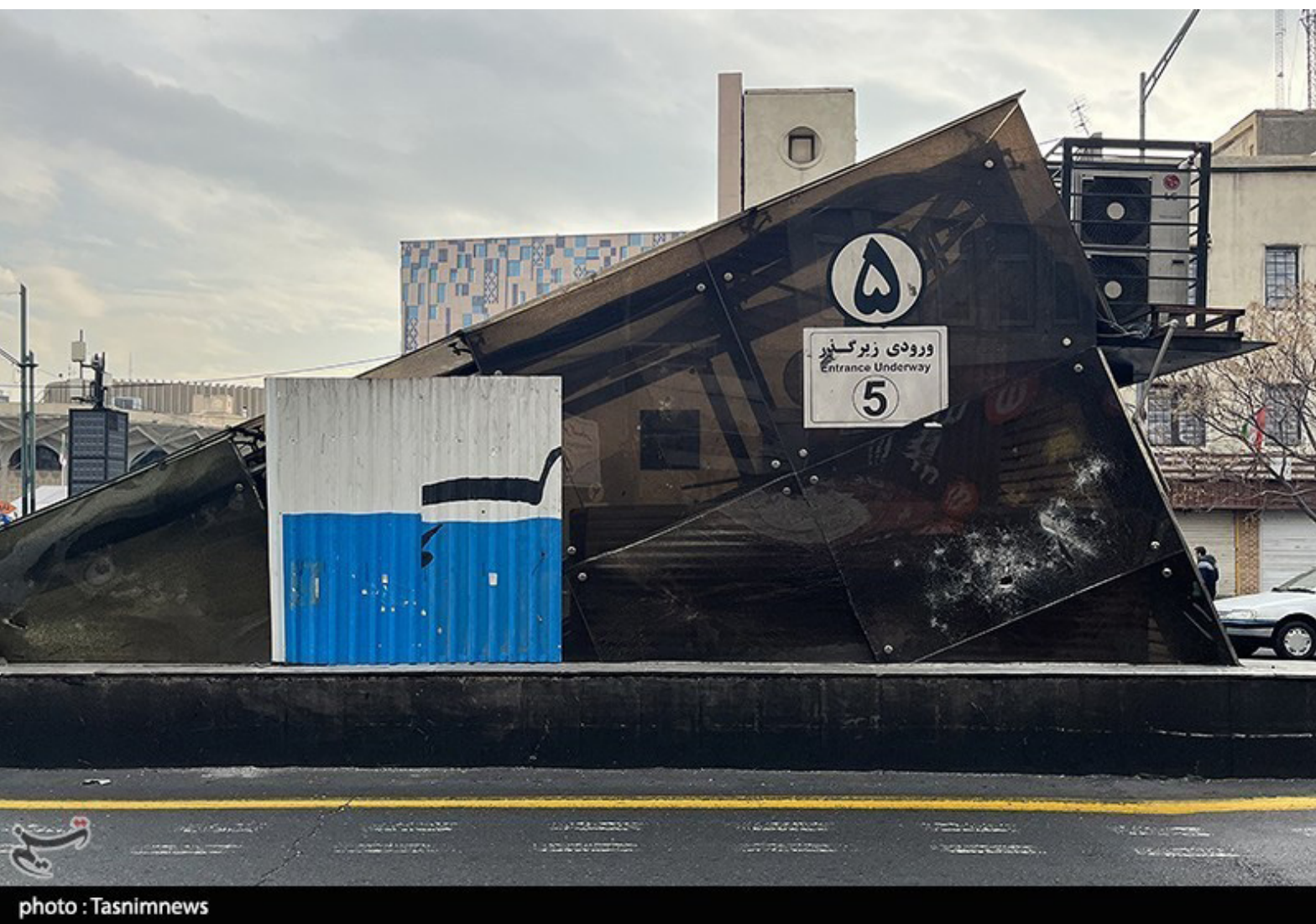


فارس
FARSNEWS

Farsnews







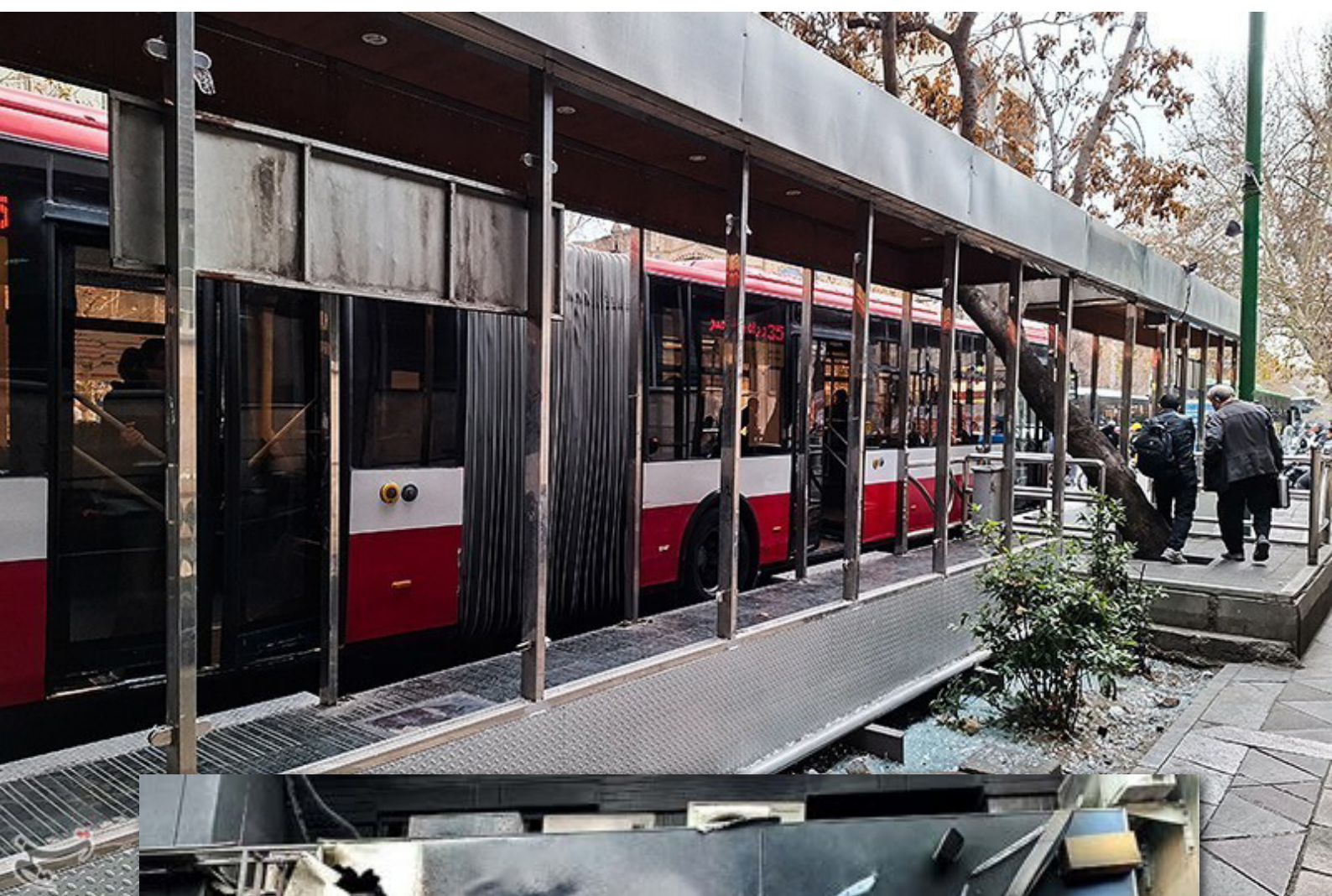


photo : Tasnim



photo : Tasnimnews





Photo : TasnimNews



photo : Morteza Salehi



photo : Morteza Salehi



photo : Morteza Salehi

Extensive Presence of Terrorist Groups and the Discovery of Cold and Firearms

On Sunday, 28 December 2025 (corresponding to 7 Dey 1404), following an increase in the exchange rate, trade-related protest gatherings were formed by some shopkeepers in Tehran's Grand Bazaar. These gatherings were motivated by economic concerns and held in response to the negative impact of currency fluctuations on commercial activities and purchasing power.



The principal demand of the participants was the restoration of stability to the market and the adoption of effective measures to curb volatility in this sector. From the outset, these gatherings were peaceful in nature, trade-oriented, and focused on specific demands.



However, a large part of these peaceful protests, due to foreign interference beginning on 8 January and the sudden—yet organized—escalation of violence and armed terrorist actions, devolved into widespread violence and unrest. These developments bore no connection whatsoever to the legitimate economic demands of the initial protesters and were not endorsed or supported by the overwhelming majority of the population.

This report examines the role of violent and terrorist groups and the discovery of significant quantities of cold and firearms during these riots. As a result of the infiltration of these groups into the gatherings and among the general public, the level of tension and violence in certain areas of Iran rapidly escalated in an unpredictable manner. In practice, armed terrorist groups entered into direct clashes with law enforcement forces in western regions of the country and carried out actions aimed at producing fatalities and murdering ordinary civilians.

The evidence, indicators, and behavioral patterns observed between 8 and 10 January 2026 in various Iranian cities point to a highly precise and deliberate planning and organization by foreign-backed violent and terrorist groups. The main objectives of these groups in organizing the violence can be summarized as follows:



1. Creating fear and terror among the population;
2. Provoking and exploiting the emotions of adolescents and youth;
3. Inflicting extensive and severe damage to public property;
4. Increasing human casualties and engineering fatalities with the aim of attracting international attention (particularly following the 2 January tweet by the President of the United States stating that if Iranian police fired at people, the United States would be ready to attack Iran);
5. Fully seizing control of certain areas;
6. Seizing at least one police station in each target city in order to gain access to weapons depots and arm rioters so as to take control of cities (existing evidence and images from armed attacks on police centers in several major Iranian cities confirm this claim).

Some of the characteristics and patterns of violence carried out during the January riots include:

1. The presence of armed individuals and groups among ordinary civilians;
2. ISIS-like behavior, such as beheading or burning law enforcement officers (immolation or setting fire to their bodies after martyrdom);
3. Targeting ordinary civilians and law enforcement personnel with the aim of engineering fatalities and increasing casualties on both sides;
4. Targeting passersby who had no intention of participating in protests or riots;

5. Identifying and attacking the homes of ordinary citizens who refused to participate in the unrest at the behest of rioters, after the riots had subsided;
6. Leadership of riots and unrest in various cities by individuals dispatched from distant cities and other regions of Iran (to avoid identification by local residents);
7. Violent with ordinary citizens who did not cooperate with their actions and behavior;
8. Leading and inciting crowds to carry out widespread and indiscriminate attacks on all facilities and buildings considered governmental, as well as mosques, banks, urban buses, urban infrastructure, government offices, police centers, schools, libraries, and cultural symbols across cities;
9. Deliberate damage to private property belonging to citizens with the aim of creating costs, insecurity, fear, and terror throughout society.



During the riots, numerous terrorists were arrested in various cities across the country, and significant quantities of cold and firearms were discovered. The most important cases are outlined below.

Reports published from Tehran and several other Iranian cities indicate that terrorists murdered ordinary civilians and law enforcement officers using criminal methods resembling those of professional killers—crimes previously associated with ISIS in parts of West Asia. Consequently, the severity of these crimes has raised the very serious possibility of ISIS elements being present in the Tehran riots and those in several other cities. For example, at least three cases of murder by beheading were reported during the unrest. In some cities, professional killers opened fire indiscriminately on people. There were individuals whose manner of using cold and firearms clearly indicated professional training.



In the city of Rasht, in Gilan Province in northern Iran, terrorists broke the gas pipelines of Imam Sajjad Hospital, directed the gas toward the hospital building, and then ignited it, committing horrific crimes. As a result, a nurse was trapped in the flames and burned to death, attaining martyrdom. In Tehran, terrorists apprehended a pedestrian whom they mistakenly believed to be a security officer, bound his hands and feet, placed a grenade inside his helmet, and detonated it. Images of the victim's face, completely disintegrated by the explosion, were published by the Head of the Legal Medicine Organization of Iran.

Another terrorist tactic aimed at engineering fatalities involved spraying bullets at pedestrians and ordinary market-goers. According to reports, in some areas of Tehran as well as in several other cities, armed individuals fired machine guns from inside vehicles at civilians and passersby. As a result of these terrorist attacks, dozens of women, men, and children were martyred. Another method used by terrorists to kill civilians and police officers alike was the use of cold weapons such as knives, machetes, and swords. According to the Commander of the National Police, most of the martyrs and those killed during the incidents on the night of Thursday, 8 January, were struck by cold weapons such as knives and machetes.



These crimes were not limited to attacks against law enforcement. In western Tehran, terrorists set fire to a private bank, and the flames spread to the upper floors of the building, all of which were residential. Four residential units were engulfed by fire. While firefighting vehicles arrived to extinguish the fire and rescue innocent civilians,

terrorists assaulted the firefighters and even set fire to the fire engines themselves. Ultimately, with the extensive presence and intervention of local residents, the terrorists fled, and firefighters managed to rescue 12 people from the burning buildings. Reports from across the country indicate that the scale and severity of crimes committed by terrorists were extensive and catastrophic. Slitting throats and delivering heavy blows to victims' heads with the intent to crush their skulls were among the common methods employed.

Evidence demonstrates that during the recent street riots, terrorists carried out their criminal acts against civilians and security forces in a trained and organized manner. According to statements by the President of the Iranian Medical Council Organization, the nature and severity of injuries sustained by the wounded clearly indicate the presence of trained hostile elements in the riots.

According to Mohammad Raeeszadeh, the injuries inflicted during the recent unrest are in no way comparable to those of previous years, as it is evident that they were inflicted by trained individuals. Some victims reported being shot at close range from within the crowd, indicating the presence of armed individuals among protesters. In one case, a grenade was detonated directly in a victim's face, leaving nothing of the eyes, nose, cheeks, or face. In another case, a law enforcement officer was struck in the face with a concrete block and stones.

Arrest of sabotage and assassination ringleaders in Tehran / Discovery of a large shipment of technical and electronic items:

Based on an announcement by the Ministry of Intelligence on January 15, 2025, a number of key elements of the recent unrest in Tehran were identified and arrested;



also, a large shipment of technical and electronic items usable for sabotage was discovered. These saboteurs had carried out destructive and assassination activities in public places, religious sites, and against security forces in 7 locations in Tehran (Ekbatan Town, Ferdows Street, Shahid Lashgari Street, the first and second Sadeghieh squares, the

Coca-Cola intersection on Pirouzi Street, and the Abuzar neighborhood); including setting fire to Imam Sadegh Mosque in the first Sadeghieh square and Jame' Abuzar Mosque, martyring two Basij members in District 13, and blocking Shahid Lashgari Highway with the aim of disrupting public order and creating unrest and insecurity. Also, a large shipment of technical and electronic items usable for espionage and sabotage that had been illegally imported into the country was discovered.

Arrest of a suspect who was shooting from his window in Naziabad

This individual was arrested while shooting and in an armed state, and confessed that he had fired with the aim of killing officers defending people's security.

Arrest of the killer of the police commander of Halilan in Ilam province

The killer of martyr "Nowruz Shariati", the police commander of Halilan city in Ilam province, was arrested during the unrest along with a firearm.

Discovery of a safe house of armed rioters in Azadshahr / Arrest of main ringleaders:

Following recent unrest in "Azadshahr" city in Golestan province, attacks were carried out and several government places such as the governorate, banks and ATMs, citizens' personal property, a number of shops and stores were set on fire. According to Adineh, the governor of Azadshahr, so far more than 1000 billion Rials in damage has been estimated from the attack by armed rioters on public property. Following public reports

to intelligence and security agencies, a safe house of armed rioters was also identified. Security forces arrested one of the main ringleaders of the armed unrest in this county at this safe house. The accused in his statements after arrest emphasized that his other accomplices were also shooting at both people and



guardians of order and security with single and double-barrel guns. This accused also stated that he used 4 liters of gasoline to set fire to people's cars in this city and attacked public property, people's property, and security and law enforcement forces with swords, machetes, Molotov cocktails, etc.

The heart-wrenching accounts of the Head of the Iranian Medical Council regarding the manner of recent killings

The Head of the Iranian Medical Council, in an interview with domestic media, provides a brief report on the manner of fatalities and injuries during the unrest on January 8th and 9th, particularly in Tehran, which indicates a clearly organized effort by terrorists and rioters to cause fatalities. According to his statements, there were numerous cases of individuals who sustained severe injuries from multiple stab wounds at very close range. In other instances, ordinary people were shot with firearms at close range from behind, indicating the shots were fired by individuals within the crowds. He stated that on these two nights, at least 900 law enforcement personnel sustained very severe injuries, with at least half requiring one or multiple surgeries for treatment. Based on preliminary findings by the Iranian Legal Medicine Organization, the nature and patterns of violence against ordinary citizens and law enforcement personnel were such that they could not possibly have been carried out by ordinary, untrained citizens. It is certain that there were groups and individuals among the ordinary people who had received the necessary professional training to escalate the level of violence and cause fatalities.

The reaction of the criminal Reza Pahlavi to the killings in the unrest: War has casualties!

American CBS network host in the program CLASH REPORT addressing Reza Pahlavi: Is sending citizens in Iran to their deaths a responsible act? Do you consider yourself responsible in this regard? Reza Pahlavi: This is war, and war has casualties!



A student who fell victim to direct fire from terrorists

Martyr Ilya Abbasi, an Amol student who, during the recent sedition by rioters, stood up to support his fellow citizens until his blood was shed. Abbasi was a 21-year-old student in the seventh semester of law at Shomal Amol University at the undergraduate level, who was martyred by rioters during the unrest in recent days. This martyr from Amol city in Mazandaran province, during these riots, accompanied several members of his religious association to help popular forces control the chaotic atmosphere of Amol city from the presence of terrorist elements, and on the route of Taleb Amoli Boulevard in this city, he was martyred by direct gunfire from some rioters. According to some eyewitnesses, mercenary elements affiliated with counter-revolutionary groups, using a personal car that was also unlicensed, passed over the half-alive body of Ilya Abbasi at the peak of cruelty.



Attack by armed rioters on Arash Women's Hospital with indiscriminate shootings

During the unrest on Thursday and Friday, January 8 and 9, 2025, in Tehran city, even though attacking hospitals is prohibited even in wars, rioters damaged a maternity hospital in east Tehran.

Blow by the Ministry of Intelligence to terrorists in Kerman

According to a report from the General Intelligence Department of Kerman province, 6 main agents, so-called ringleaders of the unrest and terrorist operations in Kerman, were identified and arrested. Two of these ringleaders, while procuring firearms, attempted to create a 20-person network for widespread and targeted destruction in recent terrorist riots. These individuals were continuously filming important military locations in the province and seeking to send images and coordinates of these centers to an element affiliated with Mossad abroad, but were unsuccessful due to internet disruption. Several firearms, stun guns, tear gas sprays, and a quantity of explosive structures for bomb-making were discovered and seized from these individuals. The third person is a notorious criminal with a record and on the run in Kerman, who was one of the main field agents of the unrest and setting fire to large stores in Kerman, and was arrested in his hideout in Bam county. The fourth person from the ringleaders of the unrest is connected to members of the terrorist Kurdistan Democratic Party, and while communicating with elements affiliated with that group and inciting destruction of public property, was seeking to procure military weapons and strike security personnel.

Arrest of 2 perpetrators of attacks on military bases in Borujerd county

According to a report from the Public Relations Center of the Law Enforcement Command of Lorestan province, security forces of Borujerd county identified and arrested two individuals who had attacked military bases and public places using homemade and incendiary bombs.



Identification and arrest of the terrorist team involved in the armed attack on Police Station 126 in Tehran Pars

A terrorist team that had entered the country from western borders with the intention of killing during the recent riots and committed crimes in Tehran was identified and arrested by the Ministry of Intelligence. Elements of this terrorist team on the evening of January 8, 2025, using military weapons and firing more than 850 rounds with the intention of seizing the law enforcement center and looting the weapons there, carried out an armed attack on Police Station 126 in Tehran Pars, Tehran, causing the martyrdom of several personnel of the Law Enforcement Command (FARAJA), Basij, and people. During another operation, these terrorists fired at operational forces, and in the ensuing exchange of fire, one of the armed terrorists was killed and four others were arrested.

Discovery of American weapons and explosive equipment from several terrorist teams

Several terrorist teams guided by the Zionist regime that had entered the country from eastern borders and were stationed in seven safe houses in Zahedan were identified and arrested. These individuals had received specialized training in sabotage and assassination abroad and intended to blow up service infrastructure and carry out terrorist operations. Various American weapons and explosive equipment were discovered and seized from these terrorist teams.

Arrest of two rioters and discovery of raw materials for homemade bombs

After technical and intelligence monitoring, the hideout of two identified rioter elements in Kermanshah province was identified and they were arrested. In this operation, from the arrested rioters, one military weapon (Colt pistol) along with two magazine clips and 45 rounds of 7mm ammunition, 18 Kalashnikov rounds, one axe, 6 cold weapons (knives and machetes), 75 shotgun shells, 332 grenade fuses, about 400 liters of gasoline for making homemade bombs, one rifle scope, and 86 rounds of light weapon ammunition were discovered and seized.



Detention of a 5-member terrorist team affiliated with the separatist Komala group in Khorramabad city

A five-member terrorist team affiliated with the Komala group in Khorramabad city, the center of Lorestan, was identified and its members were detained. This terrorist team active in the unrest had obtained one Kalashnikov rifle with 250 rounds of military ammunition.

The 10-member team of perpetrators of the Heravi Square crime in Tehran city were detained

The Ministry of Intelligence in a statement announced the detention of the perpetrators of the Heravi Square crime in Tehran. The 10-member team of perpetrators of the Heravi Square crime in Tehran city were detained. This terrorist team on January 7, 2025, brutally martyred two security personnel. This terrorist team had recently entered Tehran from a border province and were stationed in a safe house. The detained elements made important confessions about setting fire to mosques, banks, and people's property.



Discovery of a shipment of firearms for use in unrest

Based on an announcement by the Ministry of Intelligence, a shipment including 100 handguns and 120 hunting weapons was discovered on January 7, 2025, in West Azerbaijan, and 4 people were arrested in this regard.

Arrest of two Mossad agents in North Khorasan

Two spies connected to Mossad were arrested in North Khorasan province. These two played a role as main network leaders of the terrorist organization Mossad in organizing widespread unrest and violence. Communication and espionage tools and military weapons with a quantity of ammunition were discovered from these two spies.



Arrest of 16 agents of unrest and destruction of public places in Lorestan province

With intelligence oversight by law enforcement agents and public cooperation in Delfan city in Lorestan province, 9 agents of unrest were arrested during a rapid operation, and from these individuals, seven military weapons and one hunting weapon were discovered and seized.

Discovery of 60,000 cold weapons and firearms from rioters

Based on an announcement by the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FARAJA), 60,000 firearms and cold weapons were discovered in Bushehr province, and the destination of these weapons was Tehran.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps: Identification and destruction of 12 organized terrorist and espionage networks in Kerman province

Using public reports, in recent days more than 12 organized terrorist and espionage networks affiliated with the American and Zionist axis, which played a fundamental role in organizing, directing, and carrying out terrorist actions in Kerman province, have been identified, destroyed, and dismantled.

Visual Report

Attacks and Sabotages Against Religious Sites



Masjid-alrasoul Mosque in
Tehran

During the riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which has been conducted by the direct support and involvement of the United States and the Zionist Regime, terrorists and violated armed groups have made significant damages to public and private properties.

This amounts of violated activities signifies that there has been no relation between these kind of activities and legitimate economic demands, also there are clear indications of hostility and outrages toward public religious believes.

In recent days, according to the available data, more than 300 attacks and sabotage acts against religious sites has been recorded. In some cases, firing the mosques has been conducted during the time of general public presence in these sites which has resulted in the death of civilians.

The stage of violence and destruction of public religious properties, and activities such as burning holy Quran, indicate cruelty and violence of perpetrators.

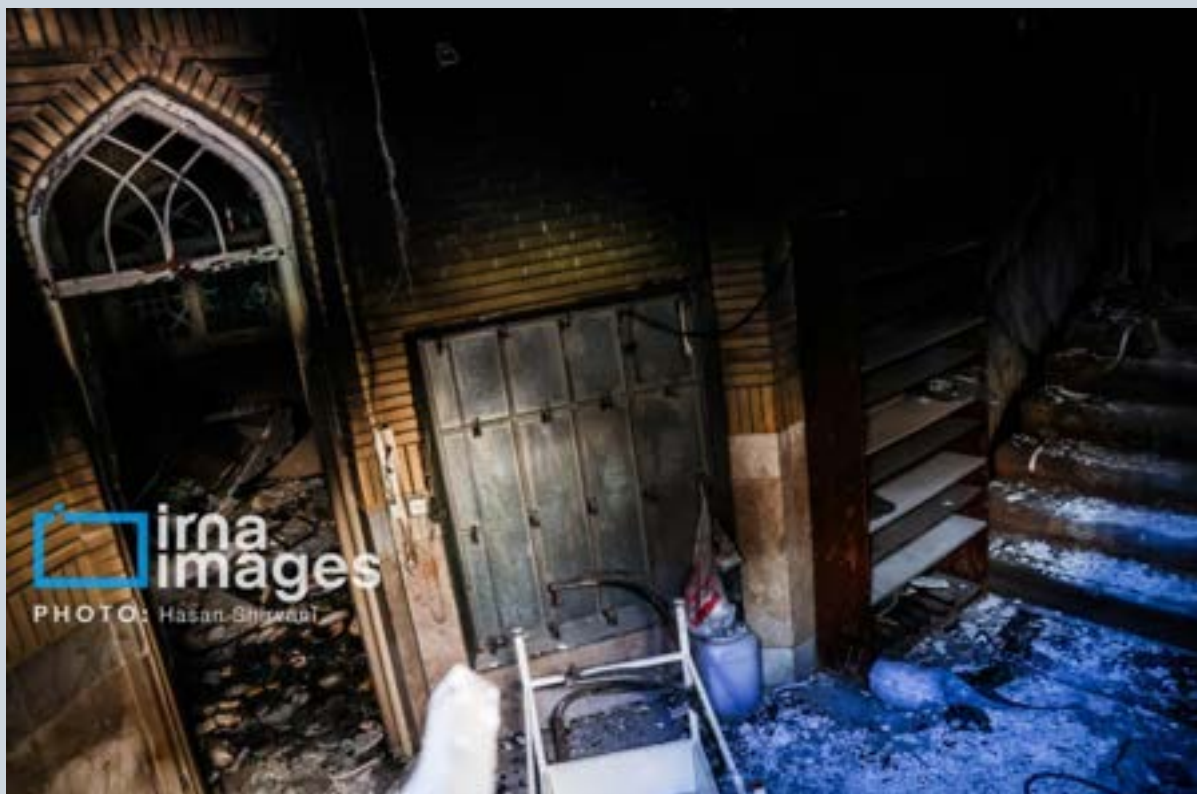
Sabz Ghaba Holy Shrine in Dezfoul – Khuzestan Province





Abouzar Mosque in Tehran







Praying site for Sunni Muslims in Shahin Shahr – Isfahan Province



Hojjat-ebn-alhasan Mosque in Tehran

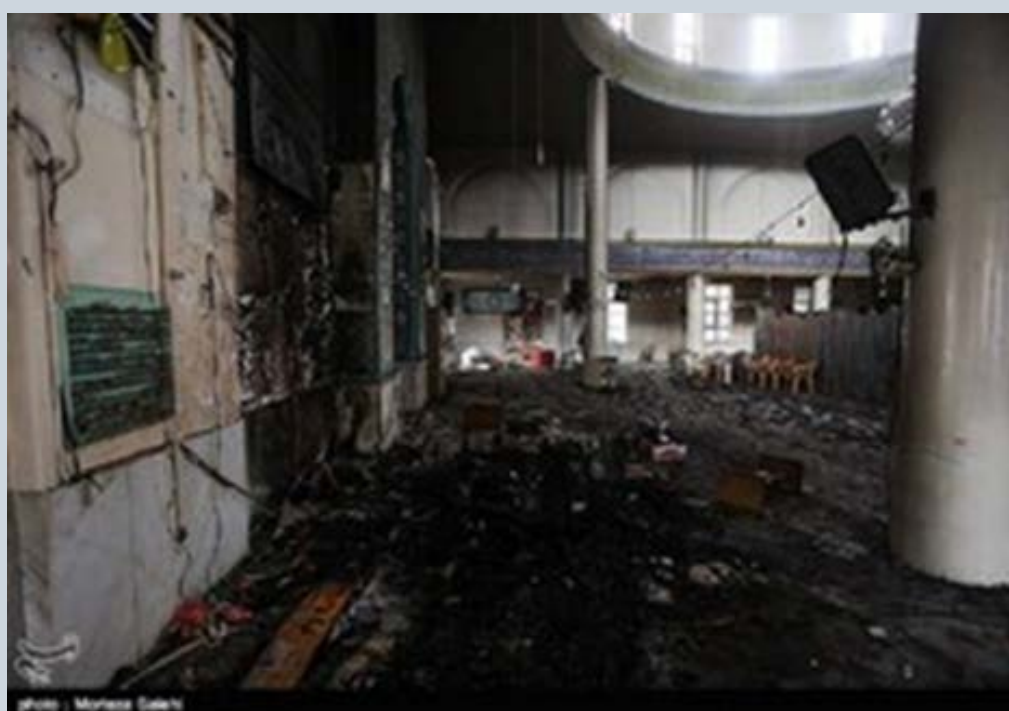


Imam Reza Mosque in Sadra City – Fars Province





A Mosque in Mobarake – Esfahan Province



Grate Mosque in Sar Aabele – Eilam Province



Report

Restrictions on International Internet and Social Media Access During Security Crises

Awareness-Raising or Organizing Chaos and Terrorist Activities

Introduction

On Sunday, 28 December 2025, following a surge in foreign exchange rates, professional protest gatherings were organized by some shopkeepers in the Tehran Bazaar. These gatherings were driven by economic motivations and in response to the adverse effects of currency fluctuations on business activities and purchasing power. The main demand of the participants was to restore stability to the market and implement effective measures to control fluctuations in this area. From the outset, these gatherings were peaceful, professional, and demand-driven. However, from 8 January, a significant portion of the peaceful protests turned violent and chaotic due to foreign interference, which had no connection to the legitimate economic demands of the initial protesters and was neither endorsed nor supported by the overwhelming majority of the people.

The networking, communication, training, and guidance of the violent activities that occurred up to 8 January in Tehran and various cities across Iran were primarily carried out using internet-based communication platforms. With the aim of severing communication between chaos-seeking and terrorist networks, from the evening of Thursday, 8 January, and amid an unprecedented escalation of tensions in cities, international internet access was suspended across Iran and replaced with the National Internet of the Islamic Republic of Iran. With access to the National Internet, no disruption occurred in providing services to citizens in areas such as access to domestic news and information networks, national commercial and economic platforms, banking and financial services, educational platforms, transportation, and other ordinary daily needs of citizens.

Evidence indicates a direct impact of the suspension of international internet access from the evening of 8 January on the subsiding of chaos and unrest. Chaos-seeking groups, having lost communication with related groups and individuals, effectively lost their operational capacity on the ground for chaos, destruction, and terrorist activities. Within less than 48 hours after the suspension of international internet access, virtually no chaos-driven gatherings were held in various cities, and the general and security atmosphere in all cities moved toward calm and stability.

Documented reports from the security institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran prove that the scale of organization, planning, networking, and predetermined objectives for these chaotic

activities were so extensive and calculated that had this measure not been taken—and had international internet access, as the primary platform for communication and organization of terrorist and chaos-seeking groups, remained available—a vast human and environmental catastrophe would have unfolded in many Iranian cities, potentially leading to numerous armed urban conflicts across different parts of Iran.

Logically, any tool, no matter how legitimate and civil, if used for unlawful purposes such as terrorist activities or inciting urban chaos, can be subject to legal restrictions imposed by governments to protect public order and security, safeguard the lives of ordinary people, and preserve private, public, and state property. Internet access is an essential and fundamental necessity in today's technology-based world. However, when this communication tool is used by terrorist groups and chaos-seeking networks to create general social crises or armed urban conflicts, it transforms from a civil tool into a military tool for unlawful and illegitimate purposes. Naturally, leaving it in the hands of opportunistic and chaos-seeking groups and individuals can inflict significant damage on the country. In such cases, the function of the internet and social media shifts from “awareness-raising” and “service provision” to functions such as “organizing and guiding terrorist activities.” In such a situation, the “internet” becomes not a tool for awareness-raising, but a tool with a terrorist nature, akin to a weapon for destructive activities.

Iran is not the only country to impose restrictions on the internet in such circumstances. Numerous governments, in specific conditions and critical situations such as internal unrest, widespread protests, or terrorist attacks, have restricted access to the internet, social media, or communication services. Internet shutdowns during widespread fires for “public safety,” restrictions on access to certain social media platforms, messaging services, and specific features such as maps and location services during widespread unrest for “maintaining public order,” restrictions on mobile data services during protests and urban riots, restrictions on digital communications and temporary blocking of online services under national security threats, terrorism, cyberattacks, and blocking of political content are all examples of actions taken by some Western countries in this regard, for which legal provisions also exist.

Currently, as of January 21, 2026, not only have all restrictions on the national internet platform been lifted across all sectors, but international internet restrictions have also been gradually removed starting January 19. In a letter to the relevant authorities, President Pezeshkian has requested the removal of all restrictions in order to revitalize the internet market and ensure public access to the international internet – a process that is currently underway.

Human Rights Documents in Emergency Situations and Serious Security Crises

Human rights documents allow for temporary and proportionate restrictions on internet access in emergency situations and serious security crises; however, such restrictions must be exceptional, lawful, necessary, and proportionate. These measures are justified by the following objectives:

- Preventing the spread of misinformation and rumors,
- Disrupting coordination among violent groups,
- Maintaining public order and national security,
- Controlling public fear and panic.

Accordingly, governments may impose widespread restrictions under the following conditions:

- 1) The existence of a real and serious threat: such as terrorist attacks or widespread violence,
- 2) Official declaration of a state of emergency: in accordance with domestic regulations and with notification to international bodies,
- 3) Principle of proportionality: restrictions must be proportionate to the threat,
- 4) Temporariness: restrictions must only be applied for the necessary duration,
- 5) Non-discrimination: restrictions must not target specific groups,
- 6) Transparency: the government must announce the reasons and duration of the restrictions.

International Legal References for Imposing Restrictions on Internet Access

- Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights recognizes freedom of expression but allows governments to impose restrictions that:*

- Are provided by law,
- Are necessary for respecting the rights or reputations of others,
- Are necessary for protecting national security, public order, public health, or morals.

- Article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights allows governments to impose restrictions in times of “public emergency” that threaten the life of the nation, provided that:

- The state of emergency is officially declared,
- Measures are proportionate to the exigencies of the situation,
- Measures are non-discriminatory,
- Measures are consistent with other international obligations.

According to the Santa Clara Principles on Freedom of Expression and the Internet, restrictions on internet access must:

- Be based on clear and accessible law,
- Pursue a legitimate aim,
- Be necessary and proportionate to achieve that aim.

Other International Legal Bases for Restricting Internet Access

In addition to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, other legal bases in international law exist that governments may invoke to justify internet restrictions. These bases primarily fall within the framework of balancing conflicting rights and obligations and the sovereign right of states.

a. National Sovereignty and Governance of Cyberspace:

Based on the principle of national sovereignty (Article 2 of the UN Charter) and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, states have the right to regulate areas under their jurisdiction, including communication and internet infrastructure. UN General Assembly resolutions (A/RES/70/125) also emphasize the right of states to formulate public policies related to the internet.

b. Safeguarding Territorial Integrity and National Security:

The International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinions, has recognized the right of states to “necessity” in responding to imminent threats to national security (subject to conditions of proportionality and urgency). State practices of disconnecting the internet during widespread unrest or cyber threats are often justified by invoking the “principle of necessity” in customary international law.

c. Protection of Others’ Rights and Public Order:

According to Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, any propaganda for war or advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred is prohibited. States may intervene to prevent such content in cyberspace. The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights also obligates states to ensure the enjoyment of the right to health and public safety, which may justify intervention in cyberspace during critical situations.

d. Combating Cybercrime and Terrorism:

Some conventions, such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime (2001), and UN Security Council resolutions on combating terrorism (such as Resolutions 1373 and 2341), obligate states to take necessary measures to counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes or organized crime. The use of the internet for planning or promoting terrorist attacks may fall under states’ obligations under international counter-terrorism law.

e. Inherent Limitations in Regional Documents:

The European Convention on Human Rights (Article 10) and the American Convention on Human Rights (Article 13) condition freedom of expression on restrictions necessary for legitimate aims such as national security, public order, and public health. The European Court of Human Rights, in cases such as *Cengiz v. Turkey* (2015), stated that disconnecting internet access can be “exceptional” and based on compelling rea

Terrorists and Instigators Showed No Mercy Even to Children and Women!!



During the recent disturbances in the Islamic Republic of Iran, certain groups, under the guidance of terrorist elements, resorted to severe acts of violence against ordinary citizens and law enforcement personnel, employing cold and hot weapons as well as incendiary materials. Examples of such conduct include direct physical assaults on individuals not participating in gatherings and not aligned with the instigators, disruption of public life, violations of citizens' rights, particularly those of women, encroachment on public and private rights such as road blockages, obstruction of police efforts to restore order, hindrance of emergency vehicles like ambulances and fire trucks, arson of public and private property, and instilling fear and alarm among the populace.

Use of Women and Girls as Human Shield

One tactic employed by instigators during protests involves organizing protest convoys and chanting slogans related to economic issues and various freedoms to initially attract a crowd. Women, especially those with children, are then positioned at the forefront of these activities to serve as human shields. Under this cover, they proceed to vandalize public property and set fire to banks and mosques.

Marzieh Nabavinia

She as a 34-year-old nurse from Lahijan, worked at the Imam Sajjad clinic in Rasht. On January 8, 2026, while assisting patients, she refused to abandon those under her care, including those receiving IV treatment, even after instigators set the clinic ablaze. After evacuating the final patient, she was trapped by the flames and martyred in the nurses' room. Marzieh leaves behind a 3-year-old child. The nursing community has strongly condemned the instigators' actions, describing her martyrdom as a criminal act.

Melina Asadi:

On the evening of January 7, 2026, 3-year-old Melina Asadi left her home in Kermanshah with her father to purchase infant formula and cold medicine from a pharmacy. On their return to home, she was suddenly struck from behind by gunfire from instigators and lost her life.



Anila Aboutalebi:

She was an 8-year-old child from Isfahan, who during the recent disturbances, went out for shopping with her family and was fatally struck by gunfire to the abdomen, chin, and back of the head by instigators. Forensic evidence indicates that the bullets were Israeli military-grade bullets.

Ali Akbar Zarei:

He was an 18-year-old youth, entered the Seyed al-Shohada Mosque in Pakdasht during its deliberated arson to rescue fellow citizens. After saving several individuals trapped inside, he became engulfed in flames and martyred in the fire caused by terrorist acts. An image of his bravery remains imprinted on the charred mosque carpet.

**Ilya Alikhani:**

He was a 17-year-old student from Borujen in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, lost his life by the attack of instigators.

**Elham Zeinali:**

She as a dedicated nurse at Imam Ali Hospital in Kermanshah, was en route to her night shift to the hospital when she came under terrorist gunfire in the midst of her journey and was martyred.

Marzieh Rezaei:

She as a 41-year-old woman, was martyred in Hamadan as she and her husband left a pharmacy, due to an attack by terrorists resulting in gunshot wounds. She leaves behind a 14-year-old son.

Terrorist Attacks Against Law Enforcement Forces

Peaceful assembly constitutes one of the most paramount mechanisms for fulfilling people's rights. If such demonstrations are accompanied by violence, in this circumstances, every government, in order to maintain public security and order retrieval, which is the right of all citizens, takes necessary measures to control the situation. The first precondition for observing peaceful assembly is to avoid violence and actions which are contrary to public order and security. The second precondition is that protesters do not disrupt public interests or cause harassment of citizens while expressing their demands. Unfortunately, since 8 of January 2026, the assemblies that took place in different parts of Iran under the pretext of economic problems have gone beyond peacefulness and have turn into perturbations and vandalism.



Security has always been one of the fundamental concerns of man throughout history. Security is a prerequisite and basic infrastructure for the progress, welfare, and development of any society in various dimensions. In order to attain the aims which stated in the constitution for accomplishment of progress and prosperity, the Islamic Republic of Iran has tried to provide the highest level of security for its own citizens over the past 47 years. In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, the Islamic Republic of Iran has pursued a strategy of not allowing other countries to interfere in its own internal affairs.

Following the protest and strike in the Tehran market due to currency fluctuations and the rise in the price of gold, peaceful demonstrations were formed in various cities to protest to the economic crisis. These demonstrations continued with the acceptance by the Islamic Republic of Iran and in accordance with the principles of the constitution on the right to protest, assembly, association and freedom of expression.





simultaneously, the country's officials, in response to the people's economic demands, tried to compensate for the increase in the price of currency and basic goods in the form of subsidies and providing public goods to the people. It is worth mentioning that the phase of peaceful protests in various cities of the country changed from economic context to organized violence and terrorist acts against people from January 18 onwards. Law enforcement and security forces, who are called security guards in Iran, tried to establish and maintain order and security for the demonstrations in accordance with the principles and rules. It is worth noting the anti-Iranian tweet of former US spy agency chief Mike Pompeo, who stated at the outset of the peaceful assemblies of people that the Iranian people were not alone and Mossad agents were present among them. Therefore, it became crystal-clear that the legitimate protest of the Iranian people were destined to be initially turned into chaos and unrest and then become a platform for terrorist groups to take action, so that in addition to ISIS-like actions against the police and security forces, which have led to the martyrdom of a large number of law enforcement forces, a large number of people who were present on the streets, including women and children, passers-by, businessmen and vehicle drivers, as well as participants in the protests, would also be killed. Therefore, widespread terrorist acts, such as attacks on businesses, shops and stores that are functioning, warehouses, public transportation, government and law enforcement centers, Basij bases and police stations, were put on the agenda and implemented in the most severe criminal ways.

simultaneously, the country's officials, in response to the people's economic demands, tried to compensate for the increase in the price of currency and basic goods in the form of subsidies and providing public goods to the people. It is worth mentioning that the phase of peaceful protests in various cities of the country changed from economic context to organized violence and terrorist acts against people from January 18 onwards. Law enforcement and security forces, who are called security guards in Iran, tried to establish and maintain order and security for the demonstrations in accordance with the principles and rules. It is worth noting the anti-Iranian tweet of former US spy agency chief Mike Pompeo, who stated at the outset of the peaceful assemblies of people that the Iranian people were not alone and Mossad agents were present among them. Therefore, it became crystal-clear that the legitimate protest of the Iranian people were destined to be initially turned into chaos and unrest and then become a platform for terrorist groups to take action, so that in addition to ISIS-like actions against the police and security forces, which have led to the martyrdom of a large number of law enforcement forces, a large number of people who were present on the streets, including women and children, passers-by, businessmen and vehicle drivers, as well as participants in the protests, would also be killed. Therefore, widespread terrorist acts, such as attacks on businesses, shops and stores that are functioning, warehouses, public transportation, government and law enforcement centers, Basij bases and police stations, were put on the agenda and implemented in the most severe criminal ways.



Attacks on Relief Workers, Medical Personnel, Healthcare Facilities, and Emergency Equipment



Following the support and incitement of riots and terrorist activities in Iran by the President and certain American and Zionist officials, and based on field observations and statements by Zionist regime officials regarding the presence of Mossad agents, trained and armed terrorists—guided by Mossad operatives—transformed peaceful protests into armed street confrontations.

In accordance with all humanitarian law protocols and human rights principles, relief workers, emergency vehicles, and medical personnel enjoy immunity in conflict zones and times of crisis. However, despite this legal immunity regarding the inviolability of personnel, facilities, and medical groups under international humanitarian law and human rights regulations, medical personnel, equipment, and centers were unfortunately subjected to attacks during these riots. Some instances are detailed below:

A) Attacks on Medical Personnel

Armed terrorists, particularly on the evening of January 8 (18th of Dey), assaulted and set fire to relief and medical staff, leading to injuries and the martyrdom of several individuals:

- * Ms. Marziyeh Nabavizadeh, a nurse and mother of a three-year-old child, who attained martyrdom after sustaining severe burns when terrorists set fire to the Imam Sajjad Clinic in Rasht.

- * In Guilan, three nurses were martyred during the riots on January 8.

- * Amir-Ali Latifi, a volunteer relief worker for the Red Crescent in Rasht, was martyred.

- * Three 115 Emergency technicians in Mashhad were assaulted and beaten by rioters.

- * Rioters assaulted 45 relief workers in various cities, wounding them with knives and hachetes.



Amir-Ali Latifi, a volunteer relief

B) Attacks on Medical Facilities and Ambulances

Trained rioters and terrorists deliberately and systematically attacked ambulances to obstruct relief efforts and increase human casualties. Examples include:

- * 54 ambulances were destroyed in Tehran.
- * 6 relief vehicles and one Red Crescent ambulance were set on fire in various cities.
- * In Mashhad, one emergency ambulance was 100% incinerated and removed from service; 8 other ambulances sustained 20% to 30% damage.
- * Attacks on emergency ambulances carrying the injured occurred in cities including Baharestan, Anbarabad, Neka, Iranshahr, Shemsh-Abad, Kashmar, Khomein, and Tehran, often resulting in injuries to medical staff.
- * Two ambulances were stopped on Piroozi and Shahrn streets in Tehran; after forcing the patients out, rioters set the vehicles on fire.



C) Attacks on Healthcare Centers

A number of healthcare centers, including hospitals, clinics, and emergency/Red Crescent bases, were attacked and vandalized. This destruction has significantly impaired the Red Crescent's capacity to provide crisis services. Notable cases include:

- * Imam Khomeini Hospital, specifically the emergency ward in the Malekshahi district of Ilam, was attacked.

- * Extensive destruction of Red Crescent bases and equipment in the provinces of Khuzestan, Isfahan, Kerman, Markazi, East Azerbaijan, and Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad. In Izeh, the destruction was so severe that all relief vehicles and search-and-rescue equipment were completely destroyed.

- * 3 Red Crescent emergency bases in Tehran were demolished.

- * Several Red Crescent pharmacies in Isfahan were attacked and vandalized.

- * Sina Hospital in Tehran was attacked, with rioters throwing tear gas into the hospital premises.



D) Attacks on Relief Infrastructure and Warehouses

- * The Red Crescent relief warehouse in Izeh, a vital northeast provincial hub and a support warehouse for Khuzestan, was set on fire and completely incinerated.

- * Relief bases and equipment in multiple provinces sustained serious damage to vehicles and branch office facilities.



Statement of the National Security Council on the January 2026 Riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran

22 January 2026

The National Security Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement regarding the recent terrorist acts in the country.

The statement begins by noting:

“A comprehensive process of intelligence monitoring and assessments, together with a chain of security measures over the past days, has led the country’s security, law enforcement, and judicial bodies to conclude that following the 12-day imposed war by the United States and the Zionist regime, and the powerful response of the Islamic Republic of Iran to this aggression, the enemy came to the realization that the mere use of military instruments could not force the Iranian nation into submission.

The unprecedented social cohesion and national unity of the Iranian people constituted one of the main pillars of Iran’s victory in the 12-day imposed war and served as the primary source of support for Iran’s armed forces in responding to the aggressor. Accordingly, the United States and the Zionist regime changed their tactics and targeted the social cohesion of the Iranian nation in order to create conditions for breaking the national will of the Iranian people.”

The statement continues:

“Following the peaceful protests of merchants and guilds in some cities, the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in several meetings, listened directly and without intermediaries to the representatives of these groups. While advising the police to show restraint and cooperation in dealing with peaceful gatherings, he issued the necessary instructions to address the concerns of economic actors. However, organized riotous cells did not allow the gatherings to continue along their peaceful path and, by turning the protests violent in various cities of the country between the 9th and 17th of Dey, inflicted damage upon the people and the country.”

The National Security Council then addresses the subsequent phase marked by widespread violence and armed attacks on the 18th and 19th of Dey, stating:

“On the 18th and 19th of Dey, with the aim of pushing the situation out of control and creating insecurity in cities through the use of maximum violence and targeted, organized armed attacks against sites and gatherings—intended to cause mass casualties and destroy public and private property—numerous terrorist acts were carried out in various parts of the country.

During these acts, terrorists, in addition to the damage inflicted on markets and shops, banks, mosques and religious sites, emergency vehicles, public transportation, medical centers, fuel

stations, and other public and private properties, committed ISIS-like crimes such as burning people alive, beheading, and stabbing, alongside the widespread use of firearms. These actions resulted in the martyrdom of 2,427 innocent civilians and defenders of public order and security out of a total of 3,117 fatalities in these incidents.”

Many of the martyrs were passers-by who were killed deliberately or as a result of indiscriminate terrorist shootings and blind brutality. Some others were among the protesters who were targeted by gunfire from organized terrorist elements within the crowds.

It should be noted that, in addition to the martyrdom of innocent individuals, terrorists and rioters also inflicted extensive damage on public and private property, part of which is listed below:

- Destruction and arson of 305 ambulances and buses
- Destruction and arson of 24 fuel stations
- Destruction and arson of 700 shops belonging to ordinary citizens
- Destruction and arson of 300 private homes
- Destruction and arson of 750 banks
- Destruction and arson of 414 government buildings
- Destruction and arson of 749 police vehicles
- Destruction and arson of 120 Basij bases
- Destruction and arson of 200 schools
- Destruction and desecration of 350 mosques and thousands of copies of the Holy Qur'an
- Destruction and arson of dozens of libraries
- Destruction and arson of 89 seminaries
- Destruction and arson of 253 bus stations
- Destruction and vandalism of 600 ATMs
- Destruction and vandalism of 800 private vehicles belonging to citizens

The Islamic Republic of Iran will resolutely pursue accountability for the perpetrators of these terrorist acts—both external instigators and the terrorists present on the ground—and will seek justice for the blood of its innocent citizens who lost their lives as a result of these actions.

Pictorial Report of Damages Inflicted on Public Property During January 2026 Riots

On Sunday, December 29, 2025, following a sharp increase in the foreign exchange rate in Iran's market, peaceful protests by various Iranian trade guilds began with strikes and peaceful gatherings in some of Tehran's main commercial centers.

In the initial days, these protests proceeded calmly, with the support and protection of law enforcement forces, leading to dialogue between the government and their representatives, as well as economic decisions and some reshuffling in the country's financial and economic management. While the government was addressing the protesters' demands and requests, some western cities in the country witnessed the formation of violent gatherings under the same economic pretexts. However, from the outset, these took on a violent and terrorist nature, leading to severe clashes between rioters and law enforcement forces.

Following certain foreign interventions through provocative statements and declarations encouraging violence and terrorist acts, as well as calls by adversaries of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad urging confrontation with law enforcement forces, from Thursday, January 8, to Saturday, January 10, various Iranian cities witnessed unprecedented and deadly armed, violent, and terrorist actions by armed elements among ordinary citizens. Their goal was to cause maximum destruction and casualties among the people, as well as to target law enforcement forces, in part to fulfill the pretext for implementing the threat made by the U.S. President in his tweet... and to provide what they claimed was sufficient justification for military action and interventionist measures by the President of that country in Iran.

One of the most horrifying aspects of these riots was the deliberate, organized, and pre-planned effort to carry out widespread and terrifying destruction of public, state, and private property. This caused extensive financial losses in various cities and led to a significant number of casualties among law enforcement forces, rescue personnel, women, children, and other ordinary citizens. Preliminary estimates by relevant authorities indicate that during these riots and violent actions, millions of dollars in damage were inflicted on Iran's public, state, and private property in various cities.

The following collection of images depicts only a fraction of this destruction and damage.

Destruction Of Emergency Vehicles











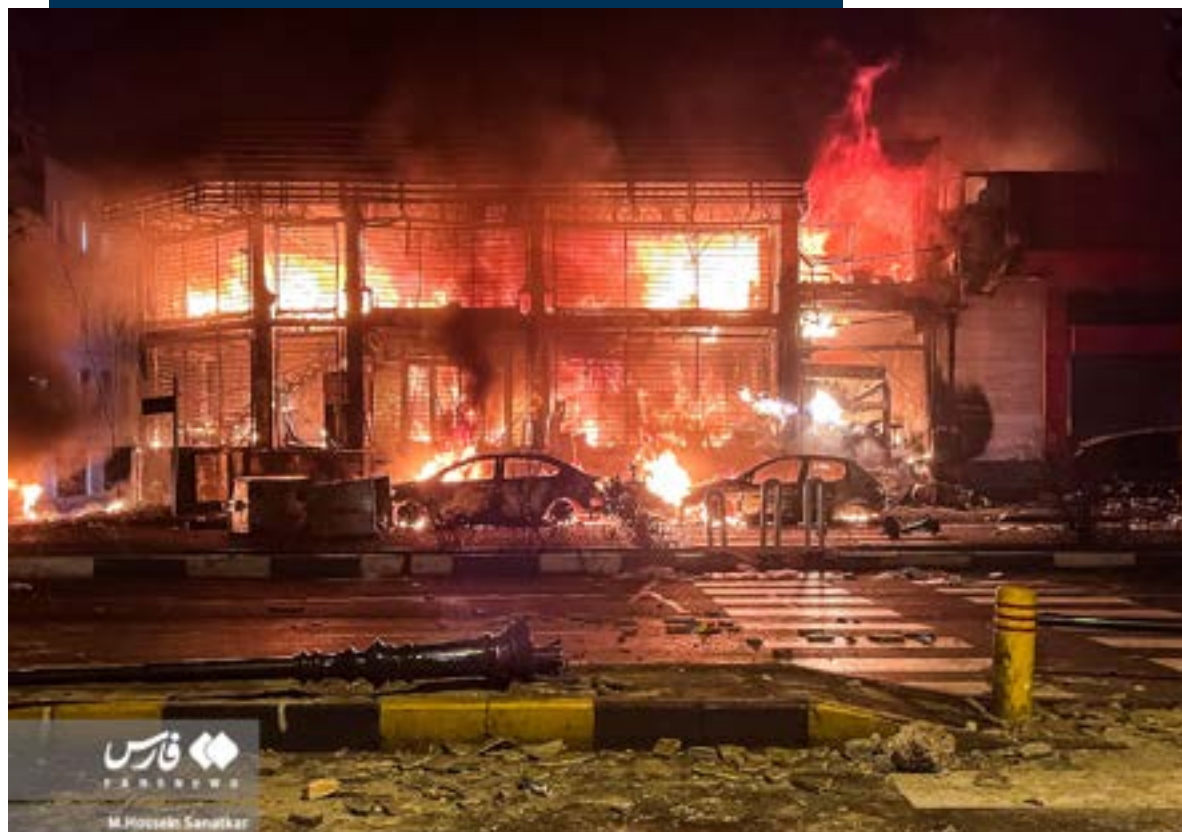






Destruction of Private Property and Stores

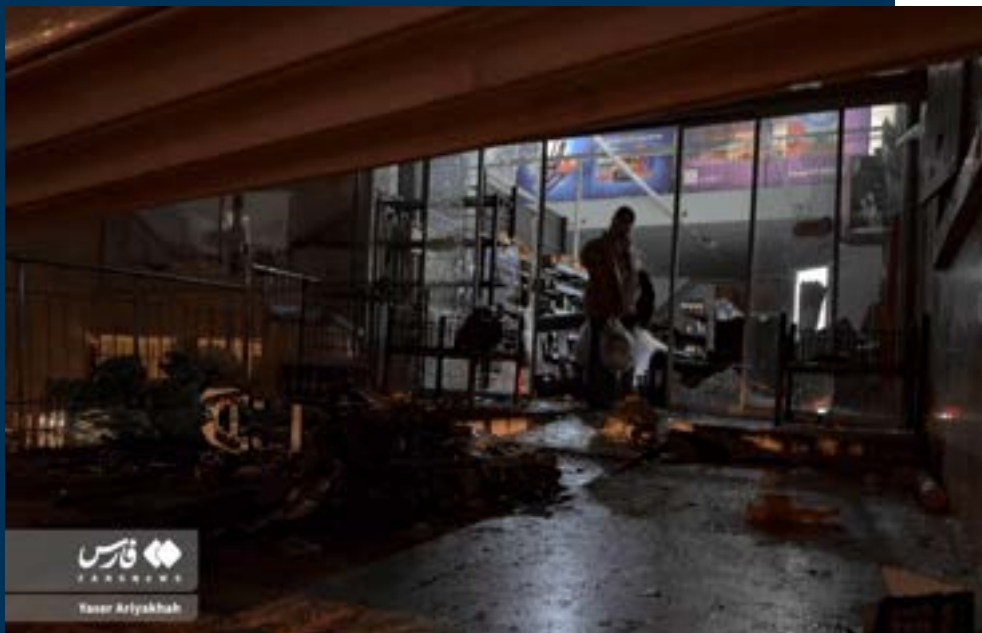
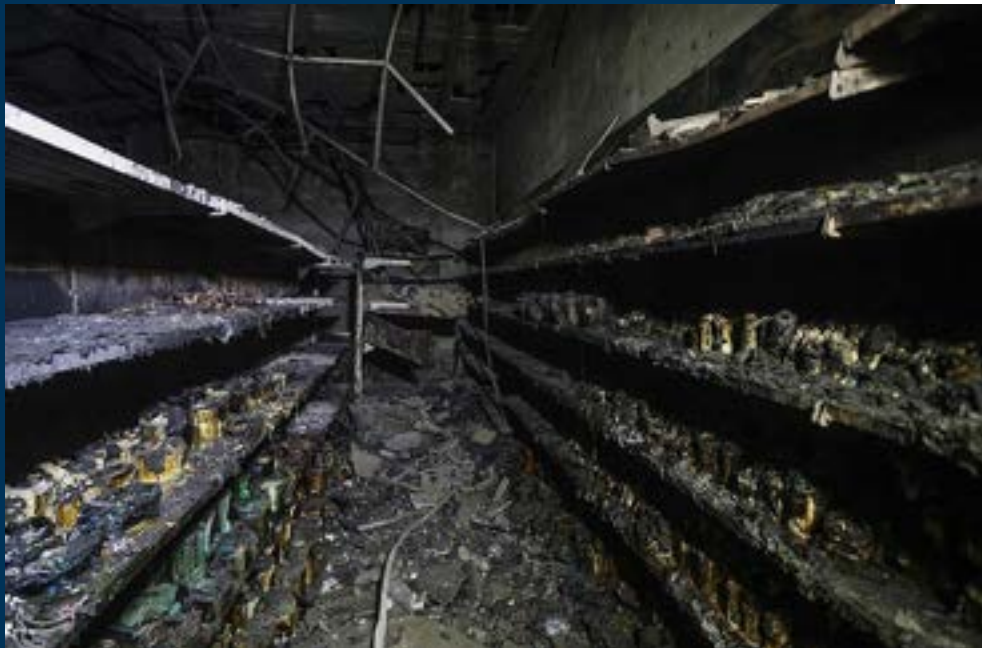




















Destruction of Buildings, Government Offices, Banks, and Mosques

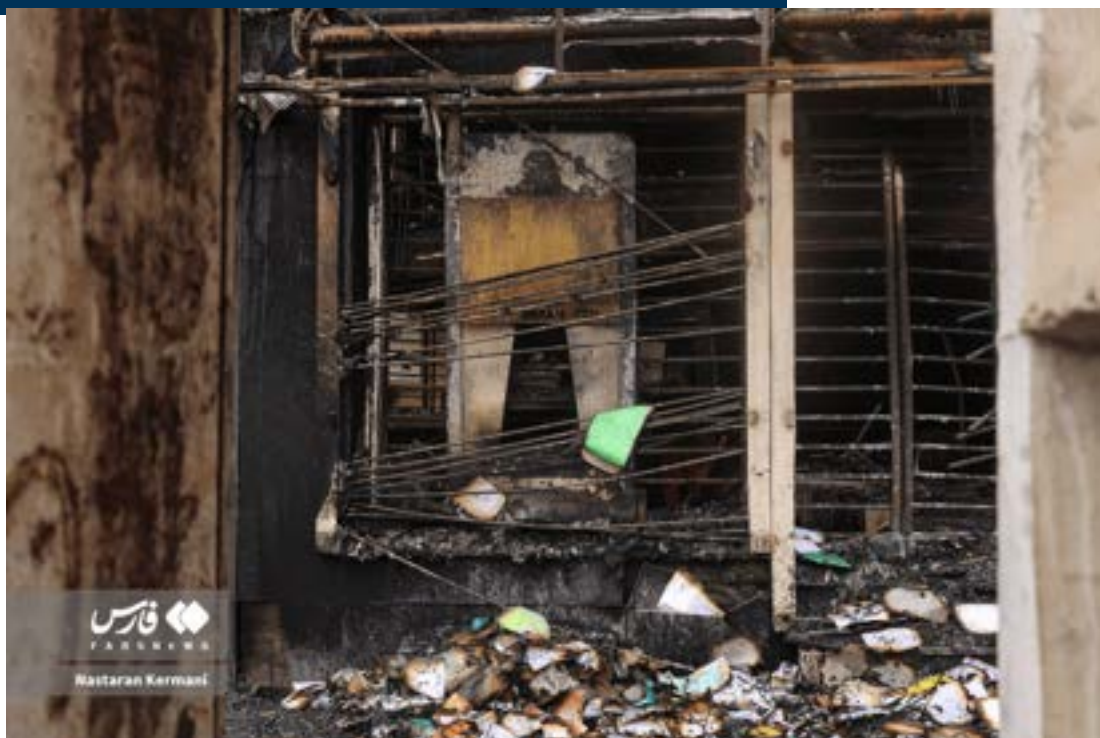








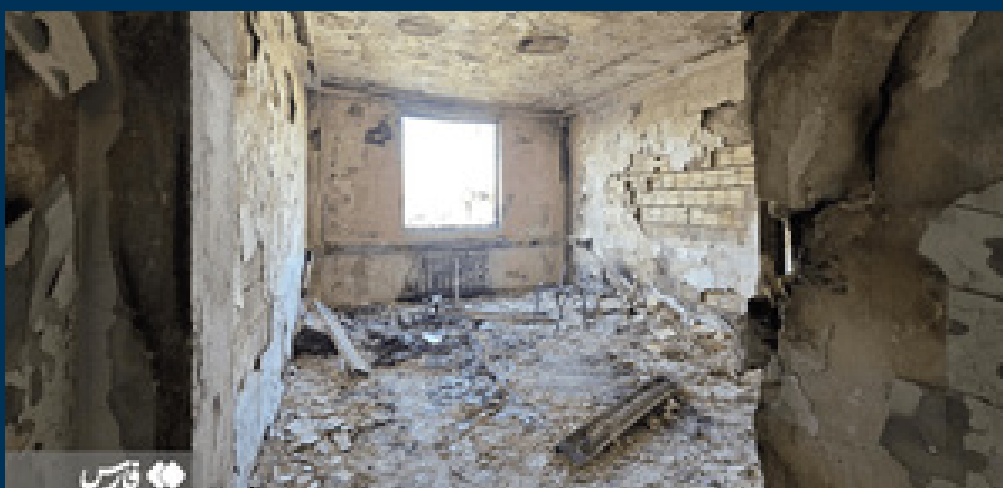


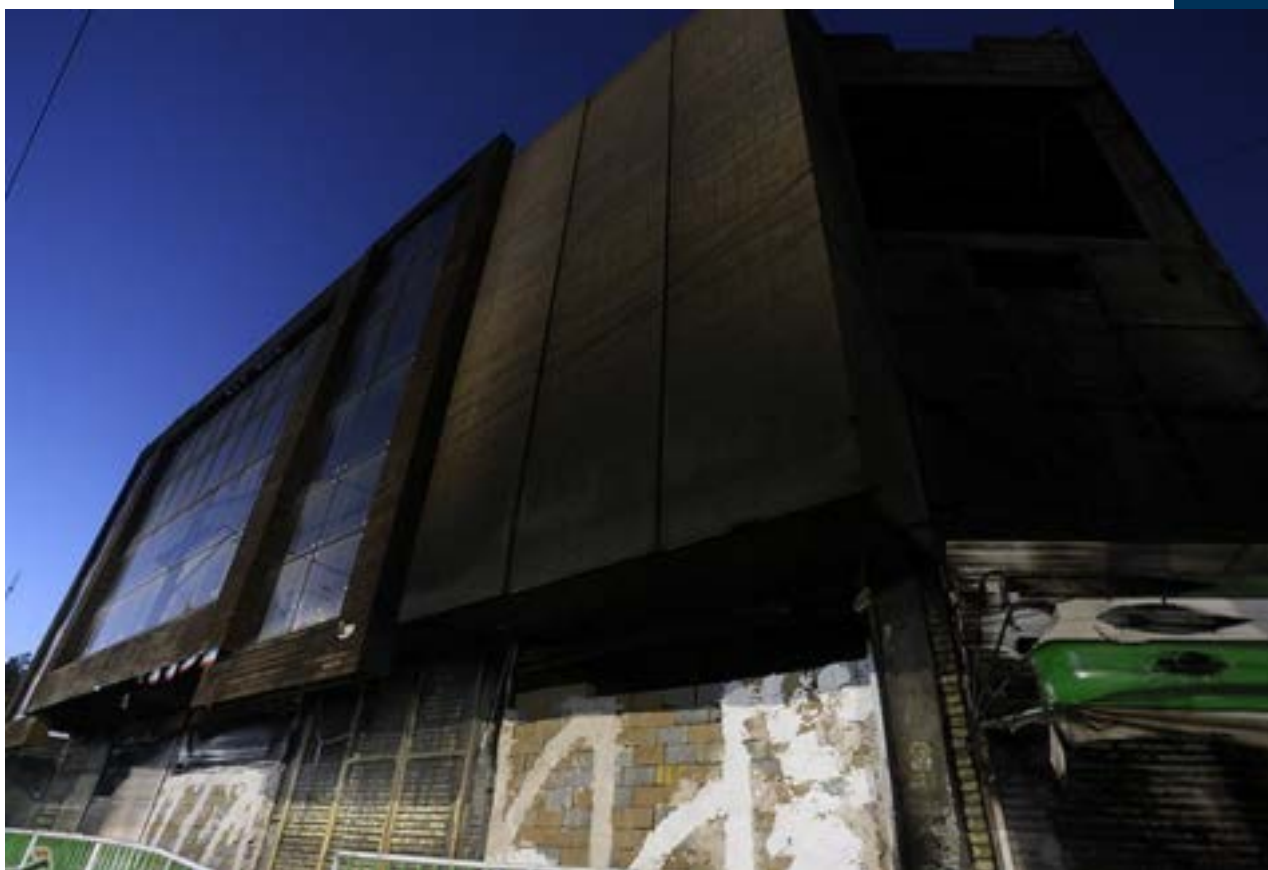




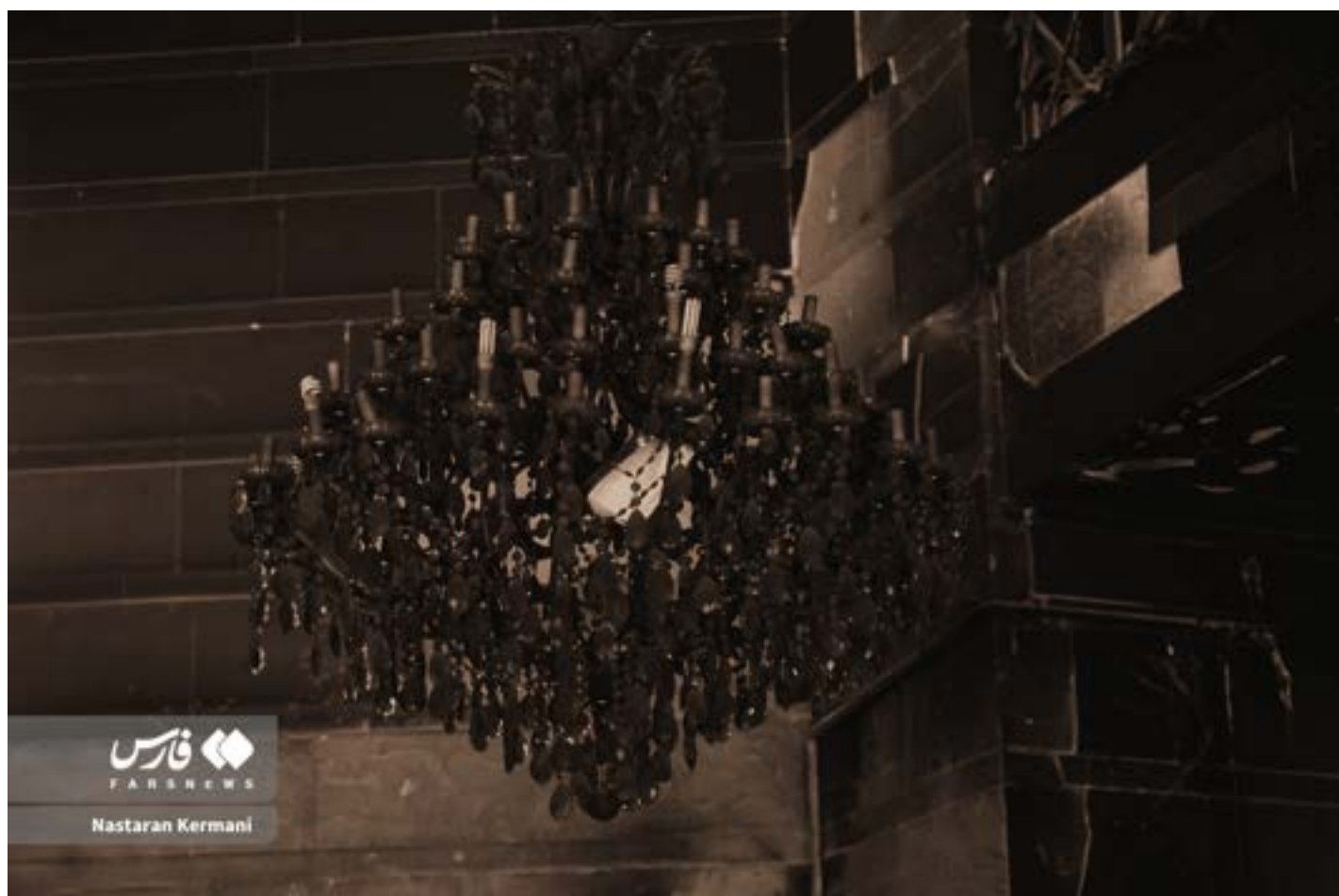














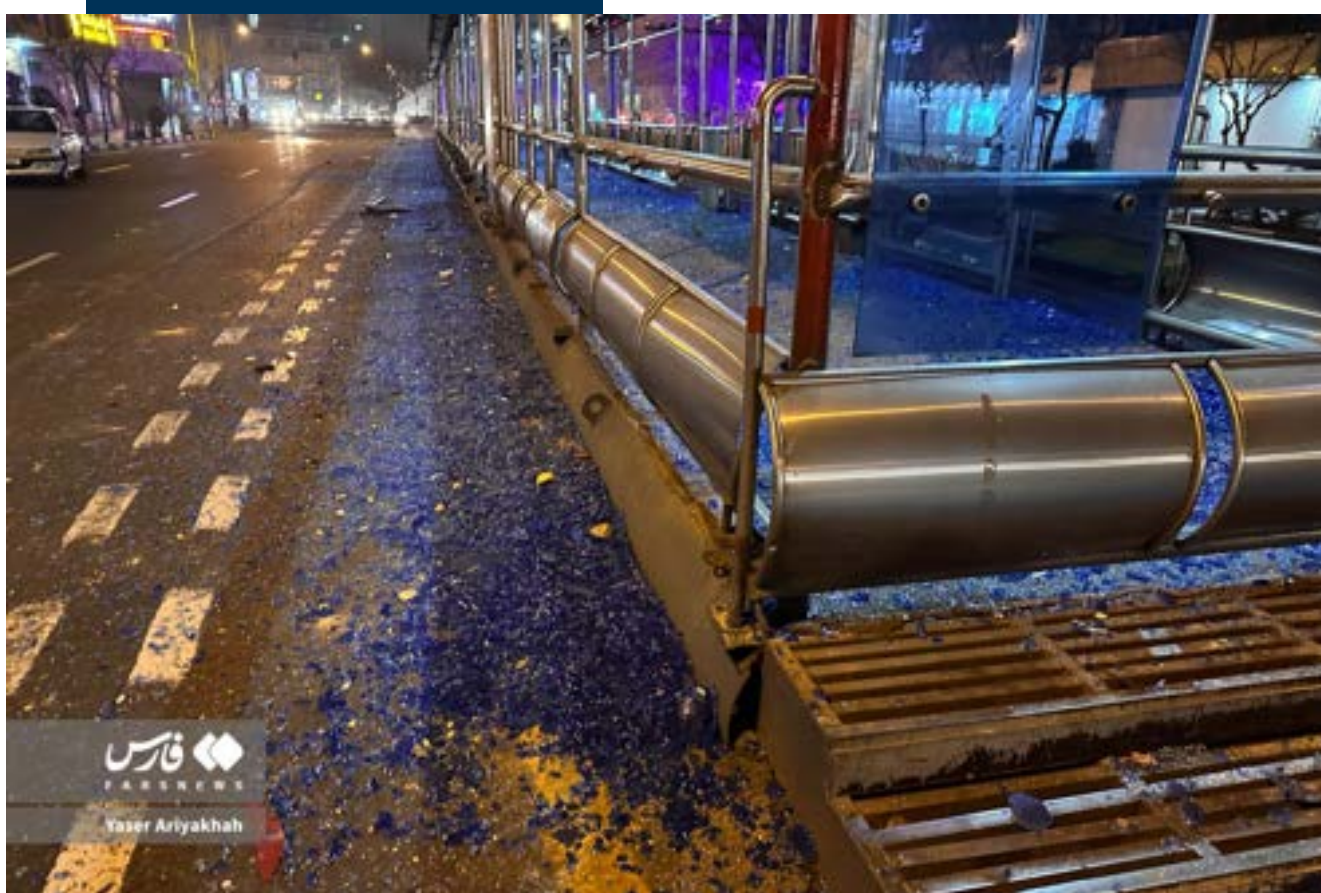






Destruction of Buses and Urban Infrastructure

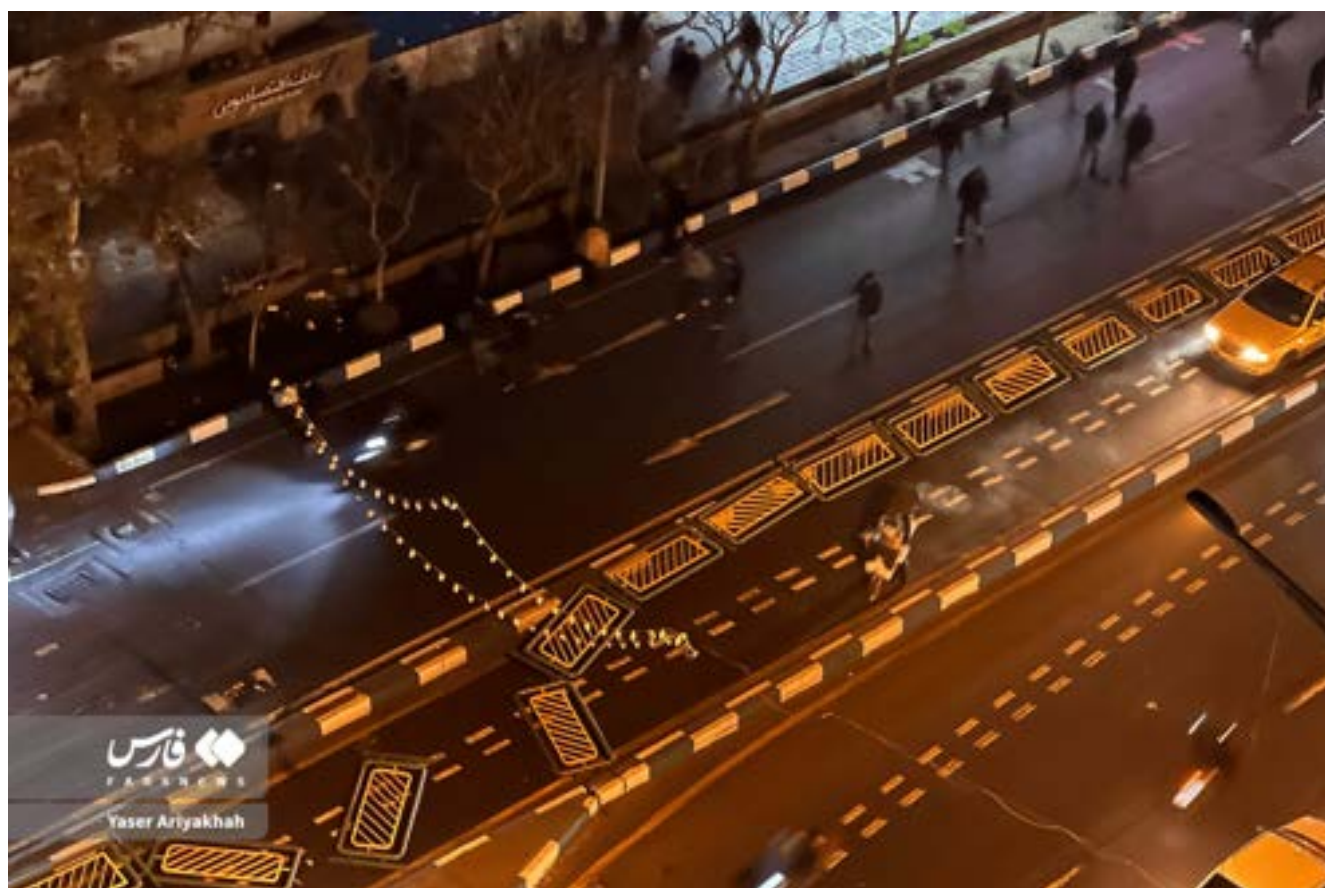


















Other Cases







