



Plenary sitting

B9-0271/2019

17.12.2019

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

pursuant to Rule 132(2) of the Rules of Procedure

on the violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran
(2019/2993(RSP))

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on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group

European Parliament resolution on the violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran (2019/2993(RSP))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran, particularly those of 19 September 2019 on Iran, notably the situation of women’s rights defenders and imprisoned EU dual nationals¹, of 14 March 2019 on Iran, notably the case of human rights defenders², of 13 December 2018 on Iran, notably the case of Nasrin Sotoudeh³, of 31 May 2018 on the situation of imprisoned EU-Iranian dual nationals in Iran⁴, of 3 April 2014 on the EU strategy towards Iran⁵, of 8 October 2015 on the death penalty⁶ and of 25 October 2016 on the EU strategy towards Iran after the nuclear agreement⁷,
 - having regard to the declaration of 8 December 2019 by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR), Josep Borrell Fontelles, on behalf of the EU on the recent protests in Iran,
 - having regard to the statement of 21 November 2019 by the Spokesperson of the VP/HR on the developments in Iran,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on the Death Penalty, on Torture and on Freedom of Expression,
 - having regard to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran of 30 January 2019,
 - having regard to the report of the UN Secretary-General of 8 February 2019 on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran,
 - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
 - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
 - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 15 November, protests started in more than 100 locations across Iran after the announcement of an increase to the fuel price of 50 %; whereas those protests were met with a violent crackdown and excessive use of force by the Iranian security forces;

¹ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2019)0019.

² Texts adopted, P8_TA(2019)0204.

³ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0525.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2018)0231.

⁵ OJ C 408, 30.11.2017, p. 39.

⁶ OJ C 349, 17.10.2017, p. 41.

⁷ OJ C 215, 19.6.2018, p. 86.

whereas according to civil society reports, Iranian security forces opened fire on unarmed protesters who did not pose any imminent threat, and allegedly shot to kill;

- B. whereas according to Amnesty International, at least 304 people, including children, have been killed during the protests in Iran and thousands of protesters, as well as journalists, human rights defenders and students, have been arrested; whereas the Iranian security forces are still carrying out raids to arrest people with direct or indirect links to the protests; whereas the Iranian authorities have not announced the official death toll;
- C. whereas on 16 November, the Iranian authorities implemented a near total shutdown of internet communications, cutting almost all means of online communication for people inside Iran and preventing any flow of information related to the brutal crackdown; whereas shutting down internet communications is a violation of the fundamental right to access information;
- D. whereas many of the detainees remain forcibly disappeared or have been arbitrarily detained and denied access to a lawyer of their own choosing; whereas according to civil society reports, some of the detainees have been subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment;
- E. whereas the recent protests are connected to the increase in the fuel price, which according to the Iranian authorities was needed owing to the negative effect of US sanctions on the country's resources; whereas according to the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, the use of economic sanctions for political purposes violates human rights and the norms of international behaviour, and the extraterritorial application of unilateral sanctions is clearly contrary to international law;
- F. whereas in recent months the Government of Iran has carried out a heavy crackdown on the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, including the jailing of peaceful critics on spurious national security charges;
- G. whereas there are numerous reports regarding the inhuman and degrading conditions in prisons and the lack of adequate access to medical care during detention, which have the aim of intimidating, punishing or coercing detainees, in contravention of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners; whereas according to civil society reports, detainees held by the Ministry of Intelligence and the Revolutionary Guards are routinely subjected to prolonged solitary confinement that amounts to torture;
- H. whereas there are no independent mechanisms for ensuring accountability within the judiciary, and serious concerns remain over the politicisation of judges, particularly those presiding over Revolutionary Courts; whereas judicial harassment is being used to silence human rights defenders;
- I. whereas the EU has adopted restrictive measures related to violations of human rights, including asset freezes and visa bans for individuals and entities responsible for grave human rights violations, and a ban on exports to Iran of equipment which might be used for internal repression and of equipment for monitoring telecommunications; whereas

these measures are regularly updated and remain in place;

1. Condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing crackdown on protesters; urges the Iranian authorities to respect the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and to exercise maximum restraint in handling the protests, in accordance with the relevant international norms and standards; insists on the need for the Iranian authorities to fully abide by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is party;
2. Calls on the Iranian authorities to immediately and unconditionally release the protesters, as well as the human rights defenders and journalists currently held under arrest; urges the Iranian authorities to ensure that a prompt, impartial and independent investigation is carried out into the human rights violations committed since the start of the protests, including allegations of ill-treatment in detention, and that those responsible are held accountable;
3. Condemns the decision of the Iranian authorities to shut down internet access to global networks, which prevented communication and the free flow of information for Iranian residents; underscores that such actions are a clear violation of the freedom of speech;
4. Calls on the Iranian authorities to ensure the right of all detainees to due process and a fair trial, including the right to be represented by a lawyer of their own choosing;
5. Insists that the Iranian authorities must guarantee the safety and physical and psychological wellbeing of all detainees and provide them with adequate medical care; calls on the Iranian authorities to investigate all allegations of ill-treatment in detention and bring the perpetrators to justice;
6. Insists once again on the importance of the expeditious establishment of an EU delegation in Tehran, which would, inter alia, strengthen the EU's capacity to monitor the human rights situation on the ground and engage with its Iranian counterparts and local civil society;
7. Calls on the European External Action Service (EEAS) to continue including human rights in the context of the EU-Iran High Level Dialogue;
8. Calls for the EU and its Member States to urgently request a special session of the UN Human Rights Council in order to ensure proper scrutiny of Iran's crackdown on demonstrators, and, at that session, to propose an independent inquiry into the allegations of grave human rights violations, which will report its findings and recommendations to the Human Rights Council;
9. Calls on the Iranian authorities to extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and to cooperate in a proactive manner; urges them to take particular care to ensure that the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran is allowed to enter the country;
10. Reiterates its full support for Sakharov Prize laureates Nasrin Sotoudeh and Jafar Panahi; deplores the fact that Nasrin Sotoudeh is still imprisoned, serving a sentence of 33 years and 148 lashes, insists on her immediate and unconditional release; calls on the

Iranian authorities to lift the travel ban which has been placed on Jafar Panahi since 2010;

11. Denounces the impact of secondary sanctions by the US and insists on the fact that the extraterritorial effect of sanctions is against international law; calls on the VP/HR to launch a horizontal initiative to explore different ways to reduce the EU's vulnerability to the secondary sanctions of third countries;
12. Reiterates its full support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), notwithstanding the serious human rights violations that have taken place these past weeks, as a critical element in stopping nuclear proliferation, reaching regional stability and strengthening international peace; deplores the latest announcements that Iran is restarting uranium enrichment activities; calls on Iran to reverse all measures that are inconsistent with the JCPOA and urges all parties to fully comply with the terms of the agreement, including with regards to delivering on the economic benefits outlined in the agreement;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States, the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the Office of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran;