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*Plenary sitting*

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**B9-0434/2022**

3.10.2022

## **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 death of Mahsa Amini and the repression of women's rights protesters in Iran  
(2022/2849(RSP))

**Pedro Marques, Tonino Picula, Eva Kaili, Evin Incir, Thijs Reuten**  
on behalf of the S&D Group

**European Parliament resolution on the death of Mahsa Amini and the repression of women's rights protesters in Iran (2022/2849(RSP))**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the declaration by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union of 25 September 2022 and the statement of the European External Action Service spokesperson of 19 September 2022 on the death of Mahsa Amini,
  - having regard to the statement of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran of 22 September 2022, demanding accountability for the death of Mahsa Amini and calling for an end to violence against women,
  - having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR),
  - having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on Iran,
  - having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas on 13 September 2022, Kurdish-Iranian woman Jina Mahsa Amini was arrested in Tehran by the morality police for an alleged failure to observe the mandatory veiling law; whereas Mahsa Amini was violently abused by the morality police, leading to her death on 16 September 2022;
- B. whereas, following the killing of Mahsa Amini, nation-wide protests began across almost all of Iran's 31 provinces and involving hundreds of thousands of Iranian citizens; where the protests were initiated by women demanding accountability for the death of Mahsa Amini and calling for an end to violence and discrimination against women in Iran, including mandatory veiling laws; whereas countless women have bravely taken off or even burnt their hijabs in defiance of the morality police; whereas this feminist uprising is a part of a broader democratic uprising in the country;
- C. whereas women's protests have inspired solidarity from men, sparking a pan-Iranian reform and protest movement; whereas students, as well as well-known athletes, artists, and celebrities, have spoken out publicly against the killing of Mahsa Amini at great risk to their personal safety and security; whereas trade unionists across the country, including the Organising Council of Contract Oil Workers and the Coordination Council of Teachers' Unions, have similarly voiced their support and threatened or engaged in strikes;
- D. whereas the response of the Iranian security and police forces to the protests has been violent, indiscriminate and unrestrained, and has resulted in substantial loss of life as well as a large number of injuries; whereas, as of 2 October 2022, Iranian security forces had reportedly killed 92 peaceful protesters demonstrating against the killing of

Mahsa Amini, injured hundreds and arrested 739 protesters in Gilani province alone; whereas true casualty and arrest figures are likely to be substantially higher as, due to state-imposed internet outages, information from Iran remains incomplete;

- E. whereas violence against peaceful protesters at the hands of security forces and police includes the use of live ammunition, pellet guns, heavy beatings, and sexual and gender-based violence against women; whereas dozens of human rights defenders, lawyers and civil society activists, and at least 18 journalists have been arrested, including the journalist who broke the news of Mahsa Amini's killing, Niloofar Hamedei, and the journalist who reported on Mahsa Amini's funeral, Elahe Mohammadi;
- F. whereas the Iranian authorities have severely restricted internet access and blocked instant messaging platforms in a blatant violation of freedom of expression; whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran has a consistent track record of disrupting and shutting down internet services in response to civil unrest;
- G. whereas the state-controlled media in Iran blamed 'foreign meddling' for allegedly fuelling the protests, identifying the embassies of Germany and other unidentified European countries in Tehran as the supposed focal centres of the 'instigation of the uprising';
- H. whereas the President of the Islamic Republic Ebrahim Raisi, the chief justice and the speaker of the parliament called for an investigation into the circumstances of the killing of Mahsa Amini; whereas, to that end, a criminal case has been filed with Tehran's Prosecutor's Office; whereas President Raisi authorised police and security forces to 'deal decisively' with those engaged in peaceful protests;
- I. whereas Jina Mahsa Amini's arbitrary arrest and death in custody comes amid an intensification of repressive state policies under the administration of Ebrahim Raisi, including an aggressive crackdown on what the authorities consider violations of mandatory hijab rules under a new hijab and chastity policy; whereas the government announced that it will start using facial recognition technology in public spaces to enforce the required modest dress code against women; whereas further policy stipulations include financial penalties for any individual engaged in the production or trade of 'vulgar dress' and punitive action against Iranians who post criticism of the mandatory hijab and chastity law, or pictures not in conformity with the law, to online platforms; whereas women considered not in compliance with the hijab and chastity law have increasingly been barred from entering government offices, banks, and public transportation over the course of the past months;
- J. whereas the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of only a few Muslim-majority countries that require mandatory dress codes for women; whereas this policy was imposed in the 1980s and has become a tool of repression against women; whereas, while the rigid application of this law was discouraged by earlier administrations, the hard-line judicial and security authorities openly support the use of physical violence against women to ensure compliance; whereas the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran have used the repressive dress code rules to target and harass dissidents, political reformists, artists and sports figures, among others;
- K. whereas the killing of Mahsa Amini is part of a larger pattern of curtailing and rolling

back the already heavily restricted rights of women in Iran, including through a new law passed in 2021 severely restricting women's access to sexual and reproductive health rights, in direct violation of women's human rights under international law; whereas the government continues to enforce its discriminatory ban on women attending football stadiums and other sporting events, and riding bicycles;

- L. whereas Iranian women have been fighting the discriminatory policies, including by publicly resisting the mandatory dress codes and through acts of civil disobedience; whereas the authorities have responded with violent persecution, harassment, torture and jailing of women and men who have opposed the compulsory veiling rule;
  - M. whereas Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, in his declaration of 25 September 2022, announced that the EU would consider all the options at its disposal ahead of the next Foreign Affairs Council to address the killing of Mahsa Amini and the excessively repressive way Iranian security forces have responded to the ensuing demonstrations;
  - N. 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; whereas the latest update, of 11 April 2022, extended the measures until 13 April 2023;
1. Condemns in the strongest terms the violent arrest, abuse and killing of Jina Mahsa Amini by Iran's 'morality police', for allegedly failing to comply with Iran's mandatory veiling rules;
  2. Expresses full solidarity with the brave women and men in Iran who are peacefully protesting against Mahsa Amini's killing, the systemic and increasing oppression of women, and severe and mass violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
  3. Expresses its full support for all peaceful actions of protest by the Iranian people, including the strikes by teachers, oil workers and students, among others; is deeply concerned about reports of the besiegement, arrests and shooting of large numbers of students locked inside Sharif University of Technology in Tehran on 2 October 2022, by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Basij forces, and police;
  4. Categorically rejects the accusations in the state-controlled Iranian media pointing to the diplomatic representations of Germany and other European countries as the supposed instigators of the protests; notes that the protests are rooted in the profound discontent of large segments of Iranian society with the deep and manifold crises in the country, growing disaffection with the increasingly authoritarian and oppressive political system and the refusal of the government to meet the demands of the population in a peaceful, inclusive and democratic way;
  5. Takes note of President Raisi's promises to investigate the circumstances of the killing of Mahsa Amini; urges the Iranian authorities to follow up on these promises, to conduct a swift, impartial and effective investigation into the circumstances of Mahsa Amini's death and to hold those responsible for her death accountable; demands that the

Iranian authorities launch a swift, impartial and effective investigation into the killings of all protesters, including bringing those responsible to justice;

6. Condemns the Islamic Republic's systemic discrimination of women and other vulnerable groups through laws and regulations that severely restrict their freedoms and rights, including the degrading compulsory veiling law and its abusive enforcement, severe restrictions to women's sexual and reproductive health rights, and violations of women's political, social, economic, cultural and personal rights;
7. Considers that the imposition and violent enforcement of veiling laws violate women's rights to freedom of expression, freedom of religion or belief, right to privacy and dignity; demands that the Iranian authorities swiftly repeal laws that impose compulsory veiling on women and girls and end systemic discrimination of women in all fields of life;
8. Calls on the Iranian authorities to abolish the 'morality police' which enforces abusive and discriminatory veiling laws on women and to hold its members accountable for their violent acts;
9. Strongly condemns the unrestrained and disproportionate use of force by the Iranian police and security forces against protestors causing the death of dozens of people and leaving hundreds injured;
10. Calls on the Iranian authorities to immediately stop the violent crackdown on protests, and to strictly abide by the principles enshrined in the ICCPR, to which Iran is a party, notably the right to peaceful assembly;
11. Calls on the Iranian authorities to ensure full access to internet services and stop disrupting the free flow of information; stresses that restricting internet access and disrupting messenger services seriously interferes with people's right to freedom of expression and assembly, as enshrined in the ICCPR;
12. Demands that Iranian authorities immediately and unconditionally release and drop any charges against anyone who is imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in connection with the protests; condemns the arrest of nine foreign nationals, including EU citizens with Dutch, German, Polish, Swedish, French, and Italian nationalities, and demands their immediate and unconditional release;
13. Demands that the Iranian authorities extend a standing invitation to visits of all Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council and that they cooperate in a proactive manner; urges them to ensure particularly that the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran is allowed to enter the country;
14. Urges the UN Human Rights Council to establish an international investigative and accountability mechanism for human rights violations perpetrated by the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the violent repression, arbitrary arrest, and unlawful killing of peaceful protestors demanding justice for Mahsa Amini, non-discrimination for women, and an end to the authorities' impunity;

15. Asks the EU and its Member States to use all engagements with Iranian authorities to demand an immediate end to the violent crackdown against protests and the unconditional release of all those arrested for exercising their right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, call for and independent investigation into the death of Mahsa Amini and dozens of protesters, urge the restoration of access to the internet and communication channels and encourage the abolition of compulsory veiling for women; calls on Member States to store, preserve and share available evidence, in line with the new rules of Eurojust, that may contribute to investigations, including cooperating with and supporting the work of the International Criminal Court; urges the Iranian authorities to ratify the Rome Statute;
16. Calls on the Foreign Affairs Council to add Iranian officials, including all those associated with the ‘morality police’, who are found complicit in or responsible for the death of Mahsa Amini and violence against protesters, to the EU’s list of individuals against whom restrictive measures in relation to serious human rights violations in Iran have been applied;
17. Calls on the Commission to consider allowing EU-based communications providers to offer tools to people in Iran to ensure access to the online tools and platforms needed to exercise their human rights; urges the Iranian authorities to swiftly and fully restore access to the internet and communication services;
18. Calls on the European External Action Service to continue to raise human rights matters in the context of all exchanges with Iran, including future EU-Iran High-Level Dialogues, and to reaffirm that respect for human rights is a core component in the development of EU-Iran relations;
19. 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.