



Plenary sitting

B9-0435/2022

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))

María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos, Petras Auštrevičius, Nicola Beer, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, Dita Charanzová, Olivier Chastel, Klemen Grošelj, Bernard Guetta, Ilhan Kyuchyuk, Nathalie Loiseau, Urmas Paet, Dragoș Pîslaru, Michal Šimečka, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Ramona Strugariu, Frédérique Ries, Dragoș Tudorache, Hilde Vautmans
on behalf of the Renew 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 its previous resolutions on Iran, most notably of 17 February 2022 on the death penalty in Iran¹, of 17 December 2020 on Iran, in particular the case of 2012 Sakharov Prize Laureate Nasrin Sotoudeh², of 19 December 2019 on the violent crackdown on the recent protests in Iran³ and of 19 September 2019 on Iran, notably the situation of women's rights defenders and imprisoned EU dual nationals⁴,
- having regard to the declaration of 25 September 2022 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 Mahsa Amini's death in police custody and the recent protests in Iran,
- having regard to the Council conclusions of 4 February 2019 on Iran, and its decision of 12 April 2021 to extend its restrictive measures for a further 12 months in response to serious human rights violations in Iran⁵,
- having regard to the reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the most recent reports published on 18 June 2022, 13 January 2022, and 11 January 2021, and to his most recent statement of 9 March 2021,
- having regard to the statement of 29 November 2018 by UN human rights experts entitled 'Iran must protect women's rights advocates',
- having regard to the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948,
- having regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) of 1966, to which Iran is a party,
- having regard to Rule 132(2) of its Rules of Procedure,

A. whereas Mahsa Jina Amini, an Iranian Kurd, was arrested for allegedly wearing her

¹ OJ C 342, 6.9.2022, p. 286.

² OJ C 445, 29.10.2021, p. 121.

³ OJ C 255, 29.6.2021, p. 69.

⁴ OJ C 171, 6.5.2021, p. 17.

⁵ OJ L 125, 13.4.2021, p. 58.

hijab improperly on 13 September 2022 in Tehran by Iran's so-called 'morality' police, who routinely subject women and girls to arbitrary detention, torture and other ill-treatment for not complying with Iran's compulsory veiling laws; whereas according to eyewitnesses, Mahsa Jina Amini was beaten during her transfer to the Vozara detention centre in Tehran, where she shortly after fell into a coma and died three days later, on 16 September 2022, in a nearby hospital while in police custody;

- B. whereas according to Iran's compulsory veiling laws, women and girls who are seen in public without a headscarf can be punished by law with a prison sentence, flogging or a fine, and they are routinely stopped in the street at random by so-called 'morality' police, who insult, threaten or physically assault them; whereas these acts amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, which is absolutely prohibited under international law, including the ICCPR, to which Iran is a state party;
- C. whereas the announced investigation into Mahsa Jina Amini's death by Iran's government lacks credibility, not just because an investigation by the Ministry of Interior into its own subordinated police force does not meet the criterion of independence under international standards, but also because there is a long-standing pattern of impunity for crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations committed by the Iranian authorities;
- D. whereas as Amnesty International reported in September 2021, the Iranian authorities have failed to provide accountability for at least 72 deaths in custody since January 2010, despite credible reports that they resulted from torture, ill-treatment or the use of lethal force by officials;
- E. whereas the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, who visited Iran in January-February 2005, concluded that women from Iran's minorities experience multiple forms of discrimination;
- F. whereas tens of thousands of Iranians, representing all segments of society, have joined anti-government demonstrations throughout the country following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini; whereas many hundreds of Iranians have been killed, injured and detained by security forces during the protests, and, as reports indicate, thousands more have been arrested, including human rights defenders, students, lawyers, civil society activists and at least 18 journalists;
- G. whereas Iranian authorities are deliberately disrupting internet and mobile connections to undermine the ability of Iranian citizens to access communication technologies in a secure and private manner and to organise peaceful assemblies; whereas the right to organise peaceful protests is protected under international human rights law; whereas imposing internet shutdowns also prevents international and local organisations from documenting human rights violations;
- H. whereas the murder of Mahsa Jina Amini is neither exceptional nor accidental, but is part of the repressive policies against women's human rights, minority rights and the intersection of those rights that have been codified in law since 1979;
- I. whereas the harassment of women by the 'morality' police forces has increased since

the beginning of Ebrahim Raisi's term in 2021; whereas the Government of Iran has pushed for legislation and draft legislation that encourages the repression of women;

- J. whereas in recent years, the Iranian revolutionary courts have substantially increased the clampdown on peaceful acts of resistance by women's rights defenders protesting against the compulsory wearing of the hijab, including the length of prison sentences; whereas the introduction of the 'Hijab and Chastity Project' would entail the use of surveillance cameras to monitor and fine unveiled women; whereas, according to a survey conducted in 2020 by *The Conversation*, 72 % of respondents explicitly rejected the mandatory wearing of the veil;
 - K. whereas Iran has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly; whereas Iran has a range of discriminatory laws, in particular its legal provisions relating to personal status;
 - L. whereas human rights defenders Zahra Sedighi-Hamadani and Elham Choubdar were prosecuted by Iranian judicial authorities and sentenced to death by the Islamic Revolution Court of Urumieh on 1 September 2022 for their support for the human rights of LGBT people; whereas Iran's legal system explicitly prohibits homosexuality and same-sex relations are punishable by death under the country's penal code;
 - M. whereas Amnesty International has documented the authorities' plot to crush current protests by deploying the Revolutionary Guards, the Basij paramilitary force, the Law Enforcement Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran, riot police, and plain-clothes security agents; whereas evidence shows that the General Headquarters of Armed Forces issued an order to commanders in all provinces instructing them to confront peaceful protesters with widespread use of lethal force and firearms by security forces;
 - 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 remain in place and are regularly updated;
 - O. whereas, despite the EU's restrictive measures, some regime-affiliated Iranians are currently living in the European Union while supporting the regime's brutal crackdown;
1. Extends its condolences to the family of the Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Jina Amini, and to the families of all those killed during the recent protests in Iran, including anti-hijab protesters Hadith Najafi, Ghazale Chelavi, Hanane Kia and Mahsa Mogoi;
 2. Condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing repression of women for objecting to compulsory veiling and for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly; calls on the Iranian Government to respect the freedom of Iranian women to choose their own dress code;
 3. Strongly condemns the ongoing state repression of minorities in Iran, including Kurds, Baluchis, Arabs and non-Shi'a and non-Muslim religious minorities, and recalls that the

imprisonment and detention rate of minorities is disproportionately high; calls for the EU and its Member States to closely monitor developments regarding the use of state violence in minority regions;

4. Praises and supports the Iranian women who continue to defend universal values despite the difficulties and personal repercussions they are facing; acknowledges that their movement goes beyond the defence of women's rights and advocates for a secular state in Iran instead of a violent and reactionary theocracy;
5. Condemns the widespread, intentional and unjustified use of force by the Iranian authorities against non-violent protesters and particularly in minority regions; stresses that such actions are unacceptable, and urges the Iranian Government to immediately and unconditionally release all those imprisoned during the protest, to drop all charges stemming from exercising the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly and to ensure that all convictions resulting from unfair trials, including those that relied on statements obtained through torture or other ill-treatment or without a lawyer present, are quashed;
6. Strongly condemns Iran's practice of shutting down internet and mobile networks in the context of protests in the country, which are hampering communications and the free flow of information for Iranian citizens; underscores that such actions are a clear violation of international law; underlines that the implementation of the 'User Protection Bill', particularly through the Supreme Council of Cyberspace, would consolidate state control of the online space, limiting access to the global internet and contravening international standards on freedom of expression and information; strongly condemns Iran's recent damaging cyber-attacks on the vital infrastructure of Albania; calls on the Commission to assess the consequences of these attacks in the context of the international rule-based order, including possible responses;
7. Stresses that fundamental rights such as freedom of expression and assembly must always be respected and calls on the Iranian authorities to live up to their international obligations, including under the ICCPR;
8. Reiterates its call on the Government of Iran to introduce an immediate moratorium on the use of the death penalty as a step towards its abolition, to commute all death sentences, and to immediately halt the executions of Ms Sedighi-Hamadani and Ms Choubdar;
9. Condemns discriminatory policies and laws against women, in particular the 'Youthful Population and Protection of the Family Law' which has detrimental consequences for sexual and reproductive rights; urges the Iranian Government and Parliament to introduce a genuine gender-based violence law that meets international standards and does not criminalise victims, while addressing child marriages and gender-based intimate partner violence;
10. Calls for a ban on the export of facial-recognition technology to Iran, which is planning to use it for the surveillance of women in public spaces;
11. Calls on the United Nations, particularly its Human Rights Council, to trigger without

delay a comprehensive investigation into the events that have taken place in recent weeks, led by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, with the aim of shedding light on the allegations of grave human rights violations in the country since the protests began;

12. Encourages strong coordination between EU embassies accredited in Tehran; urges all Member States with a diplomatic presence in Tehran to use the mechanisms envisaged in the EU Guidelines on Human Rights Defenders to support and protect these individuals and their families by, among other things, monitoring unfair trials and visiting human rights defenders in prison; calls for the EU and its Member States to implement adequate protection measures to address the specific gendered risks women human rights defenders face;
13. Calls on the Member States to take the necessary measures to revoke and cease issuing visas and residency permits to people affiliated with the Iranian regime;
14. Calls for the EU, including the VP/HR, to continue raising human rights concerns with the Iranian authorities in bilateral and multilateral forums and to use all planned engagements with the Iranian authorities for that purpose, in particular in the context of the EU-Iran High-Level Political Dialogue;
15. Urges the VP/HR and the Council to expand and update the list of individual sanctions in order to include members of the ‘morality’ police and all state officials responsible for repression and the use of lethal force against demonstrators;
16. Calls for the EU, including the VP/HR, to re-evaluate its approach to Iran, including the possibility of sanctions;
17. Urges the European institutions to reflect on the deeply rooted protest movement in Iran and to promote and underline the importance of women’s and girls’ freedoms and rights in their communication campaigns, while condemning any attempt at subjugation or imposition;
18. Calls on the European External Action Service to report back on the actions taken regarding Parliament’s previous resolutions on Iran;
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 Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Government and Parliament of Iran.