ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# A Legal Perspective on How Peaceful Demonstrations were Diverted to Organized Riots in the Islamic Republic of Iran

January 2026

## Contents

**Introduction** ..... 3

**I. The right to peaceful assembly** ..... 6

**A. Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran** ..... 6

**B. International human rights law** ..... 6

**C. Peaceful protests** ..... 7

**D. The government's duty to preserve and restore public order** ..... 10

**II. Acts of violence and vandalism disrupting peaceful protests** ..... 12

**A. Attacks on medical facilities and ambulances** ..... 12

**B. Attacks on healthcare centers and relief warehouses** ..... 13

**C. Acts of sabotage against religious sites** ..... 14

**D. Attacks against schools and libraries** ..... 17

**E. Damage to public infrastructure** ..... 17

**III. Acts of terrorism** ..... 20

**A. Applicable International Law** ..... 20

**B. International reactions to similar incidents** ..... 21

**Case Study 1: The November 2015 Paris Attacks (Bataclan, Stade de France)** ..... 21

**Case Study 2: The March 2016 Brussels Attacks (Airport & Metro)** ..... 22

**Case Study 3: The June 2016 Atatürk Airport Attack, Istanbul** ..... 22

**Case Study 4: The August 2017 Barcelona Attack (Las Ramblas)** ..... 22

**Case Study 5: The April 2019 Easter Sunday Attacks, Sri Lanka** ..... 22

**C. Incidents of terrorist acts** ..... 23

**1. Attacks against the general public** ..... 24

**2. Targeting members of the law enforcement** ..... 28

**D. Financing of Terrorism** ..... 30

**IV. Foreign interference** ..... 32

**V. Media used to instigate terrorism** ..... 37

**VI. Attacks against diplomatic and consular missions** ..... 40

**A. Inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises** ..... 41

**B. Duties of the receiving State** ..... 42

**Concluding remarks** ..... 43

## 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 accordance 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.

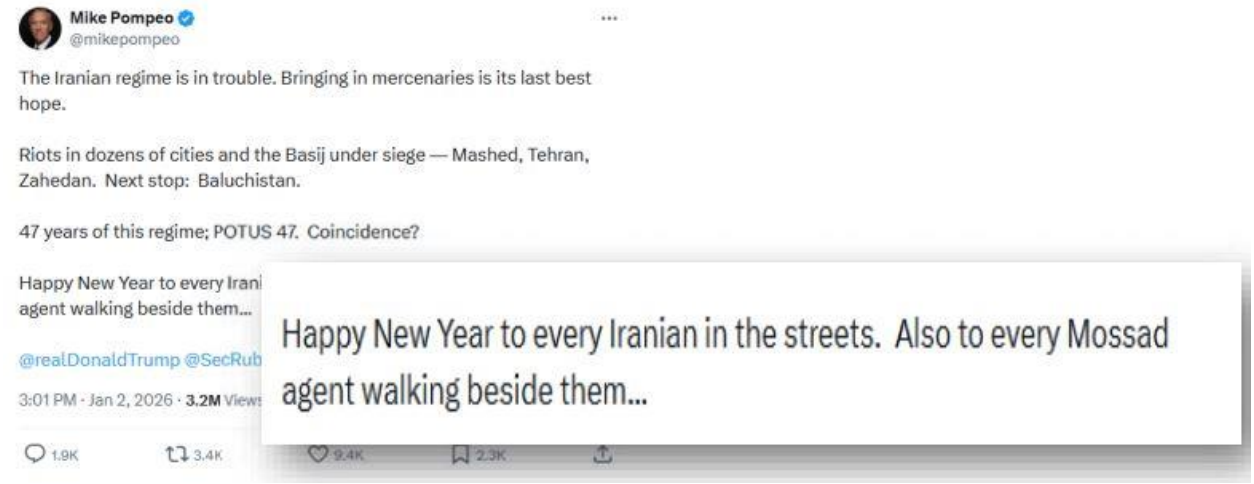
## C. Peaceful protests

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 Shahran 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

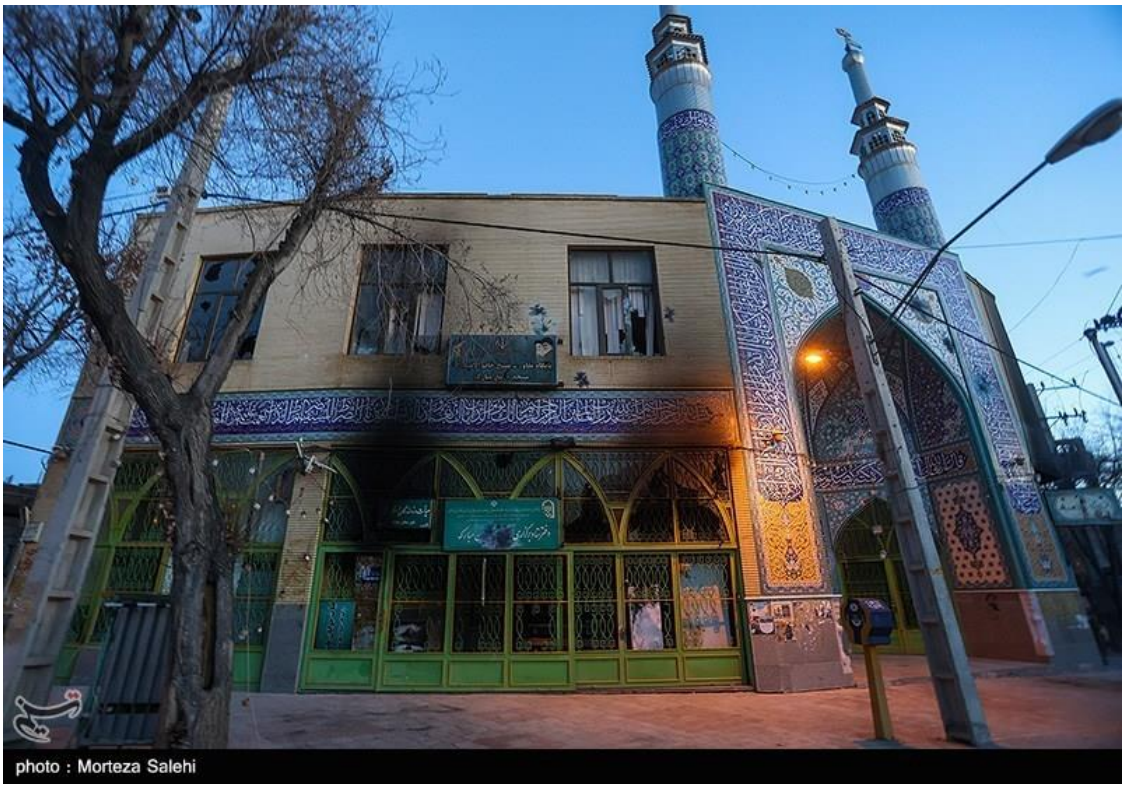
According to latest reports, 350 mosques and worshiping centres (including two Armenian churches) were subject to acts of sabotage and vandalism. In some cases, mosques were set on fire during working hours which resulted in the death of civilians.

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.

### ١. 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 dead 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.

## ۲. 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:

- Prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts.
- Criminalize the wilful provision or collection of funds, with the intention or knowledge that they are to be used to carry out terrorist acts.
- 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

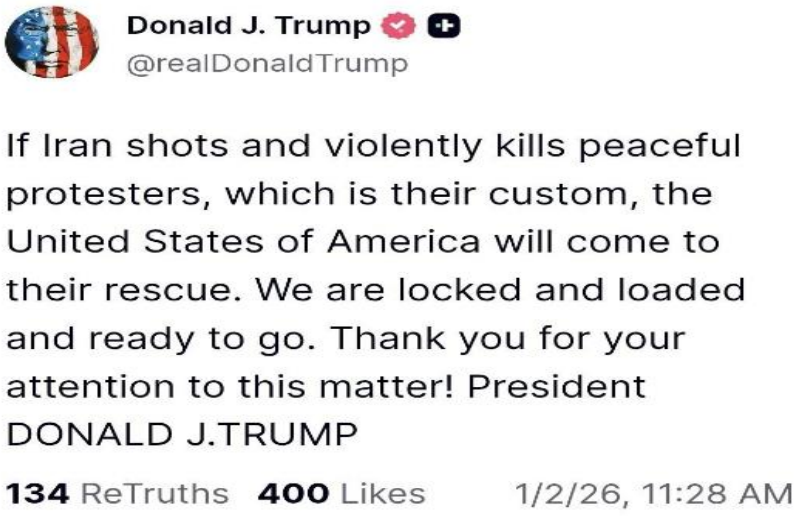
The Prime Minister of the Zionist regime has made blatantly interventionist statements regarding Iran's internal developments and has portrayed himself as sympathetic to the Iranian people. Such claims are profoundly deceptive, particularly considering the aggressive actions of this regime against Iran, 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."




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.

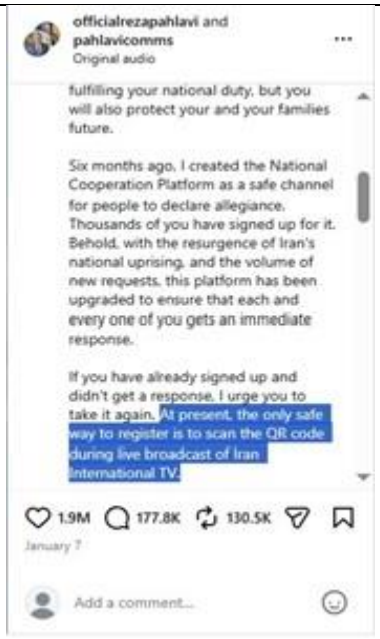
In this regard, the role of Iran International satellite channel is pivotal. Directed by the Zionist regime's intelligence agencies, this channel has a well-known record of distorting facts, fabricating news, and other similar practices.

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 Sate 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 Mossed 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 ensuring 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.