

# European Parliament Friends of a Free Iran (FoFI)

## Urgent statement

November 2019

### **Call to end brutal crackdown on protesters in Iran with hundreds killed, thousands wounded and thousands more arrested**

On Friday evening, November 15, 2019, Iranian cities were the scenes of protests against the tripling of gasoline prices. Protests have so far spread to over 176 cities and 31 provinces across Iran.

People chanted slogans: “Down with Rouhani”, “Down with Khamenei”, “Down with Dictator”, “We will not rest until we gain our rights.”

The supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has ordered the Revolutionary Guards and other security forces to open fire on the demonstrations in different cities. The number of those killed keeps rising.

Reports coming from Iran indicate that at least 450 protesters have been killed in Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, Tabriz, Ahvaz, Sirjan, Behbahan, Shahryar, Khorramshahr, Marivan... and thousands have been wounded, many in critical conditions. However, protests continue throughout Iran.

The regime has also cut off the internet completely to conceal the scope of the uprising and the scale of its brutality.

We offer our condolences to families who have lost loved ones and support protesters defending their fundamental rights against tyranny, freedom of speech and freedom of access to the internet.

We support the appeal by Mrs. Maryam Rajavi, President-elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran who called this “an uprising to end 40 years of dictatorship and terrorism in Iran. Regime leaders must face justice for crime against humanity.”

We urge the European Union and member states to stand with the Iranian people in their desire to live in freedom and democracy and to take urgent action to end the brutal suppression of protesters.

We call on EU heads of state or government and the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy to strongly condemn the crackdown on demonstrators, release all detainees and to support the Iranian people’s uprising for a free and democratic Iran.

## **Signatories:**

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## **Friends of a Free Iran**

*Friends of a Free Iran (FoFI) is an informal intergroup in the European Parliament which was formed in 2003 and enjoys the active support of many MEPs from various political groups*