



Iran Protests Update: January 12, 2026

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Since December 28, 2025, protests against the Iranian regime have erupted across Iran in response to the country's economic collapse. JINSA will release daily updates covering the demonstrations as long as they continue. The update below reflects information as of January 12, 2026, at 1:00 pm ET.

Overview

According to the Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), at least [544](#) people have been killed in the recent protests, including 483 protesters as of January 12. However, HRANA has received reports of at least 579 additional unconfirmed deaths, with other sources claiming the death toll has surpassed [2,000](#) as of January 10. HRANA also confirmed that security forces have detained at least 10,681 individuals across the country.

Protests

- As of January 12, protests have spread across [585 locations in 186 cities in all of Iran's 31 provinces](#).
 - » On January 12, people chanted "[Khamenei will be toppled this year](#)" during a funeral for a protester in Tehran.
- On January 11, protesters gathered in [Tehran](#), [Karaj](#), [Mashhad](#), [Shahsavari](#), and [Kerman-shah](#) while merchants and shopkeepers continued to strike in [Shiraz and Shahrekord](#).
 - » Mobarizoun Popular Front fighters attacked [a police vehicle](#) in the Dashtiari County of the Sistan and Balochistan Province, killing one officer and injuring another.
 - » Protesters chanted "[Long live the Shah](#)," as state-operated drones flew over a gathering in Tehran's Punak neighborhood.

Regime Retaliation

- On January 12, the family of detained 26-year-old protester [Erfan Soltani](#), who was arrested on January 8 in Karaj, stated that he is set to be put to death on January 14. He is the first known protester from the ongoing demonstrations to face capital punishment.
- On January 11, despite the country entering its third day of a state-imposed nationwide internet outage, videos emerged of several bodies at the [Kahrizak Legal Medicine facility](#) in Tehran. Eyewitnesses estimate the facility held anywhere between 250 and 400 protesters' corpses.
- On January 11, Iranian authorities [tear-gassed and fired pellets](#) at families attending the funerals of protesters in Tehran.

Regime Responses

- On January 12, the Iranian government carried out a [state-sponsored rally](#) in support of the regime in Tehran.
- On January 12, [Axios](#) reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi had contacted U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff over the weekend as President Donald Trump threatened to militarily intervene in Iran.

U.S. Responses

- On January 11, Trump stated that Iranian officials contacted him, expressing interest in [negotiations](#), amidst his threats to militarily intervene in Iran. However, he warned that the United States may act before organizing a meeting with them as protester deaths mount across the country.
- On January 11, Trump announced he would speak with Elon Musk to provide the Iranian people with [Starlink internet](#) access amidst Iran's nationwide internet outage.
- On January 11, the [New York Times](#) reported that U.S. officials had briefed Trump on potential strike targets in Iran.
- On January 11, Trump described Iran's leadership as violent, stating that the United States is "looking at some very [strong options](#)" to address the regime's crackdown on protesters.

International Responses

- On January 12, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning publicly condemned any potential [international interference](#) in Iran amidst ongoing protests, including U.S. military action.
- On January 12, an unidentified individual raised [Iran's historic flag](#) depicting the lion and sun at the former Iranian embassy in Washington, DC.
- On January 11, Los Angeles police detained a man after he drove a U-Haul truck through a crowd of [peaceful demonstrators](#) showing support for the Iranian people. His truck boasted a banner with the words, "NO SHAH. NO REGIME. USA: DON'T REPEAT 1953. NO MULLAH."
- On January 11, exiled Iranian Prince [Reza Pahlavi](#) addressed President Donald Trump during a *Fox News* interview, stating, "Let's hope that we can permanently seal this legacy by liberating Iran so that we and you can make Iran great again."
- On January 11, protesters removed the [Islamic Republic's flag](#) at the Iranian embassy in Oslo, Norway.