



Sarah Havdala
Policy Analyst

Iran Protests Update

February 10 – 17, 2026

Jonah Brody
Policy Analyst

On December 28, 2025, protests against the Iranian regime erupted across Iran in response to the country's economic collapse. JINSA will release weekly updates covering the demonstrations as long as they continue. The update below reflects information as of February 17, 2026, at 12:00 pm ET.

Overview

Protests [continued](#) nationwide during the February 10–17 reporting period, with the Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) documenting one additional demonstration since JINSA's last update, bringing the total to 676 protests across 210 cities as of February 15. Despite ongoing nationwide crackdowns, citizens have continued holding nightly balcony demonstrations and taking to the streets during 40th-day memorial ceremonies to protest the government. HRANA has confirmed at least 7,015 deaths during the protests, with an additional 11,744 alleged killings under review, while *Iran International*'s most [recent report](#) cites a significantly higher death toll of at least 36,500.

Protests

- HRANA [reported](#) that, as of February 15, 676 protests have occurred across 210 cities, an increase of one protest-related incident since JINSA's last update on February 9.
- Nightly balcony demonstrations have emerged as the most consistent form of protest activity in recent weeks across multiple provinces, during which participants chant anti-regime slogans, including "[Down with the dictator](#)"; "[Death to the traitor \[Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps\] IRGC](#)"; and "[Khamenei will be overthrown](#)".
- During the reporting period, coordinated balcony protests occurred nightly, including in [Kashan](#), [Arak](#), [Borujen](#), [Isfahan](#), [Shahr-e-Rey](#), [Roodehen](#), [Shahriar](#), [Kermanshah](#), [Shiraz](#), [Tehran](#), and [Mashhad](#).
- On February 17, marking the 40th day of mourning since the January 8–9 nationwide massacre, citizens in select localities in Iran gathered to eulogize slain protesters.
 - » Shopkeepers in Tehran [initiated](#) a strike marking 40th-day memorials for slain protesters.
 - » Regime authorities [fired](#) into a crowd during a 40th-day memorial ceremony for slain protesters in Abdanan.
 - » Security forces [barred](#) mourners from holding a memorial ceremony in Mashhad for a slain firefighter who had aided protesters.
- On February 16, an anti-regime [demonstration](#) occurred in Abdanan, during which roughly 100 protesters gathered and chanted "death to Khamenei."

- On February 13, a protester in Lahijan set fire to a regime banner while chanting: “We are here until our last breath. Long live the Shah.”
- On February 11, protesters spray-painted pro-monarchy slogans in Kerman and Najafabad.
- On February 10, high school students in Mashhad chanted “long live the Shah” on the 47th anniversary of the Islamic Republic’s establishment, and schoolgirls in Karaj ripped images of Khomeini from their textbooks and set them ablaze.

Regime Retaliation

- On February 17, *The Record* from Recorded Future News reported that suspected regime-linked hackers “likely took advantage of a spike in demand for information” during Iran’s nationwide internet blackout by posting authentic protest updates and footage linked with malware.
- On February 17, the digital rights group Filterbaan reported that Iranians are experiencing intermittent internet outages across the country.
- On February 16, regime authorities arrested hundreds in the Hamedan province town of Chenar, parading detainees in cages throughout the village.
- On February 16, Tehran Revolutionary Court Branch 15 head judge Abolghasem Salavati sentenced 14 Iranians to death for participating in anti-government protests.
 - » The family of Abolfazl Karimi, one of those sentenced, claimed he was tortured, denied medical treatment, and subjected to forced confessions.
- On February 15, the *New York Times* reported that 33-year-old protester Ali Rahbar mysteriously died in custody after his January 8 arrest despite Iranian authorities stating that they are not executing protesters.
 - » Rahbar’s family claimed he was executed by the regime and that he was not granted access to a lawyer or a proper trial.
- On February 14, the Associated Press reported that security forces continue to carry out nationwide arrests targeting individuals who participated in anti-government protests.
 - » Sources claim that authorities are using security cameras and drones to track protesters before raiding their homes and workplaces.
- On February 13, *Iran International* reported that security forces in Golestan province are offering gift cards to the families of slain protesters in exchange for their silence regarding the regime’s abuses.
- On February 12, sources informed *Iran International* that security forces are denying a detained 14-year-old protester access to his asthma medication.

Regime Responses

- On February 11, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian addressed the recent crackdown on protests, stating that “we are ashamed before the people. We are obliged to serve all those who were harmed in this process.”

U.S. Responses

- On February 13, President Donald Trump told reporters that “regime change in Iran would be the best thing that could happen.”

- On February 12, *The Wall Street Journal* [reported](#) that the United States smuggled approximately 6,000 Starlink satellite internet terminals into Iran during the country's communications blackout.
- On February 11, Vice President JD Vance [told](#) reporters that "if the Iranian people want to overthrow the regime, that's up to the Iranian people."

International Responses

- On February 17, protesters [gathered](#) outside Oman's embassy in Geneva, Switzerland, ahead of the second round of nuclear talks between Iran and the United States, throwing tomatoes at vehicles carrying the Iranian delegation and shouting "death to terrorists."
- On February 14, hundreds of thousands of people [gathered](#) worldwide for Global Day of Action rallies to protest the Iranian regime's human rights abuses and to show support for the Iranian people.
 - » Large demonstrations [took](#) place in Munich, Toronto, Los Angeles, and several other cities, where protesters chanted against the Iranian government and called for regime change.
- On February 13, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola [wrote](#) on X that "now is the time to double down on our support for liberty for the people of Iran" and that "Iran will be free."
- On February 12, the European Parliament [adopted](#) a resolution condemning the Iranian regime's targeted repression of protesters, women, minorities, and healthcare providers, while also demanding that the government halt "arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and torture."