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Iran Protests Update

February 3 – February 9, 2026

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 9, 2026, at 10:30 am ET.

Overview

Protests continued nationwide during the February 3–9 reporting period, with the Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA) documenting 11 additional demonstrations across three new cities, bringing the total to 675 protests in 210 cities. The week also saw expanded regime retaliation, including the arrest of prominent reformist political figures. In the United States, the State Department imposed sanctions on 29 Iranian-linked vessels and entities, and a member of Congress introduced legislation aimed at countering Tehran's communication restrictions. HRANA has confirmed at least [6,961](#) deaths during the protests, with an additional [11,730](#) 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 9, 675 protests have occurred across 210 cities, an increase of 11 incidents and 3 cities since the last update on February 2.
- On February 8, merchants in Tehran [gathered](#) in front of the town's city council and called on the government to reimburse them after security forces destroyed their businesses for protesting the regime.
- On February 8, Iranian protester Pouria Hamidi in the city of Bushehr [begged](#) President Donald Trump to end negotiations with the Islamic Republic before committing suicide on camera.
- On February 7, Shiraz Medical Sciences University students [called](#) for imprisoned doctors who assisted protesters to be released from custody after six consecutive days of staging sit-ins.
 - » The students [chanted](#) "on the front line of saving lives, devoted defenders of Iran," "students may die, but they will not accept humiliation," and "by the blood of our comrades, we will stand until the end."
- On February 6, Iranian soccer player Mehdi Sharifi of Shiraz's Fajr Sepasi symbolically [crouched](#) into a fetal position after scoring a goal during a game in Iran with Tabriz's Tractor Sazi in an apparent protest against the regime's crackdown on demonstrators.
- On February 3, citizens across Iran protested the regime's oppression and violent crackdown on recent demonstrations.

- » Protesters in Yazd [set fire](#) to a banner depicting Ayatollahs Ali Khamenei and Ruhollah Khomeini while chanting “long live the Shah.”
- » Medical students in [Isfahan](#) and pharmaceutical students in [Tabriz](#) held sit-ins to demonstrate “solidarity with Iran’s national uprising” while memorializing murdered protesters.
- » A protester in Tehran [spray-painted](#) the message, “President Trump, don’t negotiate with the killers of the people of Iran.”
- » Protesters in Karaj [chanted](#) “death to bloodthirsty Khamenei” from their balconies.
- » Protesters in Tehran [chanted](#) “long live the Shah” and “death to the dictator” from their balconies.
- On February 2, students at Azad University in Mashhad [protested](#) the murder of a fellow student who was killed during anti-regime demonstrations in January.

Regime Retaliation

- On February 9, reports [indicated](#) that several prominent politicians and figures from the reformist camp—including Azar Mansouri, Ebrahim Asgharzadeh, Javad Emam, and Mohsen Aminzadeh—had been arrested.
- On February 8, Iran’s Chief Justice Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei [announced](#) that detained protesters would not qualify for the annual pardons granted by the government on February 11.
- On February 8, *Iran International*, citing informed sources and hospital data, [reported](#) that security forces killed at least 1,800 people at a hospital on January 8 during protest-related crackdowns.
- On February 8, the Coordination Council of the Iranian Teachers’ Trade Association [announced](#) that at least 200 school children had been killed by regime forces in the recent protests.
- On February 7, Iranian security forces [arrested](#) 11 Kurdistan Free Life Party (PJAK) leaders and seized weapons and ammunition in Kermanshah Province.
- On February 3, *Iran International* [reported](#) that regime soldiers raped and sexually assaulted at least three underage girls while in custody for protesting in January.

U.S. Responses

- On February 6, the Department of State [announced](#) sanctions on 14 vessels linked to Iran’s so-called “shadow fleet” involved in transporting petroleum, as well as on 15 entities that have engaged in trade involving Iranian-origin crude oil.
- On February 5, U.S. Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY) [introduced](#) a bipartisan bill, the IRAN Act, aimed at expanding and protecting open internet access in Iran by requiring a U.S. strategy to counter government-imposed communication restrictions, including VPN bans and nationwide internet shutdowns, amid ongoing protests.

International Responses

- On February 3, Australia’s Foreign Ministry [sanctioned](#) “20 individuals and three entities linked to the Islamic Republic” for abusing Iranians’ human rights and advancing the country’s nuclear and missile programs.