

Text adopted by the plenary session of proposal for resolution by Karl Vanlouwe, Conner Rousseau, Karin Brouwers, Gwendolyn Rutten and Jeremie Vaneeckhout regarding the Mahsa (Jina) Amini protests

The Flemish Parliament,
- having regard to:

- 1° the death of Ms Mahsa (Jina) Amini on 16 September 2022 under suspicious circumstances during her detention by the Gašt-e Eršād, the Iranian morality police;
- 2° the fact that no moral, legal or religious justification can be legitimately invoked for blows and injuries resulting in death;
- 3° the numerous street protests that have gripped Iran since her funeral on 17 September 2022, and the excessive force used by the various security forces of the Iranian Islamic Republic to stifle resistance;
- 4° the disproportionate and excessive force used in response to peaceful protests, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 240 civilians since the protests began and over 12,000 arrests;
- 5° the periodic interruption of Internet traffic by the Iranian government to curb protests and minimise the flow of information about the atrocities to the international community;
- 6° the many reports by reputable international organisations on the human rights situation in Iran that state that political executions, mass arrests, mistreatment of prisoners and suppression of freedoms, especially of women, are widespread there;
- 7° the brutal suppression of similar protests in November 2019, with Reuters news agency putting the total death toll at 1,500 based on information from regime officials;
- 8° the Decision (CFSP) 2022/596 amending Decision 2011/235/CFSP, adopted by the European Council on 11 April 2022, which extended the existing restrictive measures on persons and entities involved in human rights abuses in Iran until 13 April 2023,
- 9° the International Treaty on Civil and Political Rights, to which the Islamic Republic of Iran is a party;
- 10° Belgian Foreign Minister Hadja Lahbib's meeting on 23 September 2022 with her counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on the sidelines of 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly;
- 11° the joint statement of UN experts on 22 September 2022 demanding accountability for the death of Mahsa Amini and calling for an end to violence against women;

- whereas the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to use disproportionate and excessive force as a means of stifling democratically inspired protests and is blocking any progress on respect for human rights, in particular women's rights, out of religious fanaticism;

- explicitly condemns the excessive force used against the protests of the Iranian people by its own government;

- condemns the continued repression of women who object to the requirement for women to wear headscarves or exercise their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly;

- calls on the Iranian government to allow Iranian women freedom in their choice of clothing and to respect this freedom;

- calls on the Islamic Republic of Iran to end systemic violence against women, a clear violation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in force in Iran since 1976;

- calls on the Foreign Affairs Council to put the situation in Iran on the agenda for its meeting on 17 October 2022 and to take coordinated sanctions against individuals and organisations directly involved in Mahsa Amini's death after the results of an independent investigation are known;

- expresses its support for women's rights organisations in Iran who persevere in their mission despite the difficulties they face and the personal retaliation they face, and calls on Iran to heed these protests;

- calls on policymakers at all levels to give these organisations maximum support, including through international organisations such as the UN Women Committee;

- Calls for support for an independent investigation into the death of Mahsa Amini;

- calls on the Government of Flanders to:

1° Send both bilaterally and with the European Union a strong and clear message to the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran that the aggression against its own people is excessive and unacceptable;

2° Both bilaterally and with the European Union, call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to release the peaceful protesters and conduct an independent and transparent investigation into the death of Mahsa Amini;

3° Both bilaterally and with the European Union, call on the Islamic Republic of Iran to restore internet access and ensure the free flow of information;

- Calls on the EU, including the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, to continue to bring human rights issues to the attention of the Iranian authorities in bilateral and multilateral fora and to use all planned meetings with the Iranian authorities for this purpose, especially in the light of the EU-Iran high-level political dialogue;

Asks the European Commission to address this resolution within the framework of the political dialogue and indicate how it will take it into account;

- Calls on the President of the Flemish Parliament to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the Government and Parliament of Iran.