

Motion

Jin, Jîyan, Azadî Solidarity with the protesters in Iran

submitted by International
Movement of Catholic Agricultural
and Rural Youth (MIJARC Europe)

The members of the European Youth Forum are deeply concerned about the worsening human rights situation in Iran. We firmly stand by the side of all people whose rights and freedoms are threatened in the current situation and especially by the side of young people in Iran. As members of the European Youth Forum, we strongly condemn the arbitrary, increasingly brutal and excessive use of violence, including the thousands of arrests made by the Iranian authorities.

We recall Iran's obligations under international human rights law, notably as a State Party to the UN International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 1 on self-determination and Article 21 on freedom of assembly), the UN Convention against Torture (Article 2 on protection from torture), and the UN Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, notably General Recommendation No. 35 on Gender-based violence against women. The Revolution of 1979 and the installation of an authoritarian regime has manifested in gross violations of international human rights law, specifically the civil and political rights and freedoms of the Iranian population, notably young people, women and the LGBTQI+ community.

Jin, Jîyan, Azadî - Women, Life, Freedom. These words are currently resounding in the media and on the streets all over the world. The slogan's origins lie in decades of Kurdish movements.

The murder of the 22 year-old Kurdish woman Jîna Amini attracted worldwide attention and sparked a protest movement in Iran. We call on people to call Jîna Amini by her real name, because it is currently not allowed to officially bear Kurdish names in Iran, and therefore to counter the Iranian regime's systematic oppression and policy of denial.

According to media reports, the so-called Iranian Morality Police decided that she had not worn her hijab properly. She was arrested in Tehran and taken to a nearby police station. On the spot, Jîna Amini was detained for several hours and shortly afterwards admitted to hospital. Here, she was diagnosed with brain hemorrhages, which were proven to be the result of external violence. Independent reports reveal that Jîna was beaten and abused both in the prison van and at the police station. This fact was deliberately concealed by the Iranian regime.

The population and the international community have reacted with horror to her death. Many young demonstrators in Iran, particularly young women, continue to be arbitrarily killed for exercising their right to assemble and demanding their human rights. Protests are now also taking place all over the world. The ruling Iranian regime is now responding to the protests in Iran with extremely brutal violence and is criminalising the movement and the people who join it. There has been, and continues to be, further persecution, abduction and murder of innocent people - especially of young women - who are fighting for their freedoms. Around 15,000 citizens have been arrested since the beginning of the protests, with approximately 1,000 of them now facing imprisonment, sexual violence, physical and mental torture and persecution, including the death penalty.

We declare our utmost solidarity with all protesters, especially the youth in Iran who are risking their lives to fight for their fundamental human rights and freedoms, notably women who are fighting against patriarchal structures for their rights. Our solidarity also goes to all protesters from the Iranian diaspora worldwide who, despite the possible consequences for relatives, are joining the protests.

We condemn all forms of violence and call on the international community and the United Nations to support the people in Iran in their fights for women's rights and freedom! We believe that only peaceful and constructive dialogue can create a long-term solution.

Europe must place a special focus on overcoming direct and structural violence against women and other marginalised groups.

We call on the European institutions, governments of European states and the United Nations to:

- demand from the Iranian regime to immediately cease all forms of arbitrary and gross violence against protestors and the Iranian population - including gender-based violence, torture and the death penalty - as per Iran's obligations as a State Party to international human rights law;
- demand from the Iranian regime that all people, including youth, and independent of their gender, geographic, ethnic and religious background,

sexual orientation, and disability must be allowed to live in freedom;

- demand from the Iranian regime the release of all those imprisoned, especially young people and women who are claiming their rights or are imprisoned as a result of the protests;
- visibly, verbally and financially support the protest of Iranian civil society, including by facilitating in their access to the internet, communication channels, and independent media;
- ensure the provision of necessary communication infrastructure in order to protect the civilian population in Iran from being isolated from the world community;
- fulfill the obligations under the 1951 Refugee Convention whereby all Iranian nationals and those residing in Iran are granted international protection;
- impose the strictest possible sanctions on the Iranian regime and their collaborators, with the least possible harm to the people in Iran;
- not legitimise in any way the Iranian regime, including by condemning the violence and using every chance to fight disinformation;
- fully support youth organisations in accessing and meaningfully participating in the independent investigation conducted by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights violations in Iran.

We call on young people in Europe to actively show solidarity and to speak up for the protection of human rights in Iran. The protests began with the outcry of young people and are now supported by the population. The international community must step up and defend the rights and freedoms of all those living in Iran. Young people must be at the heart, and forefront, of this.

Jin, Jiyan, Azadi



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