

## ABSENDER

---

---

Botschaft der Islamischen Republik Iran  
S.E. Herrn Mahmoud Farazandeh  
Podbielskiallee 65-67  
14195 Berlin

Your Excellency,

I am writing to express serious concern about the Iranian authorities' response to the largely peaceful protests that have taken place across Iran and to request that the Iranian authorities take urgent steps to protect the human rights of protesters and others.

According to credible reports received by Amnesty International, at least 143 protesters have been killed across the country and over a thousand people have been arrested. Video footage verified by Amnesty International shows that security forces used firearms, water cannons and tear gas to disperse protests and beat demonstrators with batons. Images of bullet casings left on the ground afterwards, as well as the resulting high death toll, indicate that they have used live ammunition. The authorities also implemented a near-total shutdown of the internet for a week following the protests and shut off nearly all means of online communications for people inside Iran during this time.

I remind you that, under international law, states must respect the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and security forces may only resort to the use of lethal force when strictly unavoidable to protect against imminent threat of death or serious injury. In addition, everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media, such as the internet. Shutting down communications over the internet also constitutes a systematic assault on the right to freedom of expression under international law.

I call on the Iranian authorities to:

- Immediately end the deadly crackdown against protesters and show respect for human life;
- Immediately and unconditionally release anyone detained solely for peacefully taking part in demonstrations, expressing support for them or criticizing the authorities;
- Protect all detainees from torture and other ill-treatment, and ensure that they have access to their families and an independent lawyer of their own choosing;
- Immediately lift all restrictions on access to the internet and social media to allow people to share information and freely express their opinions;
- Conduct independent impartial investigations into all suspected instances of arbitrary and abusive use of force, and hold accountable anyone who has committed such violations;
- Provide independent human rights observers immediate access to hospitals and detention centres in the country and invite UN mandate holders to conduct fact-finding visits.

Yours sincerely