

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

PRESSEERKLÄRUNG

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Iran: World must strongly condemn use of lethal force against protesters as death toll rises to 143

The international community must denounce the intentional lethal use of force by Iranian security forces that has resulted in the killings of at least 143 protesters since demonstrations broke out on 15 November, Amnesty International said today.

According to credible reports received by the organization, those killed include at least 143 people. The deaths have resulted almost entirely from the use of firearms. One man was reported to have died after inhaling tear gas, another after being beaten. Amnesty International believes that the death toll is significantly higher and is continuing to investigate.

“The rising death toll is an alarming indication of just how ruthless the treatment of unarmed protesters has been by the Iranian authorities and reveals their appalling assault on human life,” said Philip Luther, Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa at Amnesty International.

So far, while the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, the [EU](#) and a number of states have condemned what they have described as apparent use of excessive force, these responses have failed to explicitly acknowledge the use of lethal force to kill protesters, despite [mounting evidence](#).

“The international community’s cautious and muted response to the unlawful killing of protesters is woefully inadequate. They must condemn these killings in the strongest possible terms and describe these events for what they are – the deadly and wholly unwarranted use of force to crush dissent,” said Philip Luther.

Horrific accounts from eyewitnesses and victims’ relatives on the ground, information gathered from human rights activists and journalists outside Iran and extensive video footage analysed by Amnesty International’s Digital Verification Corps provide clear evidence that Iranian security forces have been intentionally using firearms against unarmed protesters who posed no threat to life. Verified videos show security forces deliberately [shooting](#) unarmed protesters from a short distance. In some cases, protesters were shot [while they were running away](#) and clearly posed no threat to the security forces. Other videos show security forces shooting towards protesters from rooftops of state buildings including a justice department building.

Security forces responsible for the crackdown include Iran’s police force, the Revolutionary Guards and plain-clothes agents from the Basij paramilitary force and others.

Amnesty International has received information indicating that, in many cases, the Iranian authorities have refused to return victims’ bodies to their families and, in some, security forces have removed dead bodies from morgues and transferred them to unknown locations.

In some cases, there are shocking reports that, when the authorities have returned victims’ bodies to their families, they have demanded payment citing several reasons, including the cost of the bullet that killed their loved one or compensation for property destroyed during the protests; these allegations have been denied by at least one official in Khuzestan province. In a pattern consistent with previous protester killings, the authorities have threatened victims’ families with arrest if they hold funerals for their loved ones or to speak to media.

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Amnesty International has also received reports of the authorities moving injured protesters from hospitals to detention facilities, putting their lives at risk by denying them potentially life-saving medical care.

Under international law, security forces may only resort to the use of lethal force when strictly unavoidable to protect against imminent threat of death or serious injury.

Even if a small minority of protesters resort to violence, security forces must always exercise restraint and use no more force than is strictly necessary, proportionate and lawful in response to the violence they are facing.

Background:

Below is a breakdown, by province, of the 143 deaths reported so far to Amnesty International. The organization obtained the information from reports whose credibility and reliability it has ascertained by interviewing victim's relatives, journalists and human rights activists involved in gathering them. It has then crosschecked the information.

1. Alborz province: 9
2. East Azerbaijan province: 1
3. Esfahan province: 7
4. Fars province: 15
5. Kerman province: 1
6. Kermanshah province: 34
7. Khuzestan province: 40
8. Kurdistan province: 12
9. Tehran province: 20
10. West Azerbaijan province: 4

Zusammenfassung der Pressemitteilung (Schweizer Sektion)

 <https://www.amnesty.ch/de/laender/naher-osten-nordafrika/iran/dok/2019/zahl-der-getoeteten-steigt>

26. November 2019

Iran Demonstrationen – Zahl der Todesopfer steigt

Seit dem Beginn der Demonstrationen am 15. November stieg die Zahl der getöteten Demonstranten und Demonstrantinnen auf mindestens 143. Die meisten der Todesfälle sind auf den Einsatz von Schusswaffen zurückzuführen.

Die Zahl der seit dem Beginn der Proteste am 15. November Getöteten stieg auf mindestens 143 Personen, wie Amnesty International aufgrund glaubwürdiger Aussagen berichtet. Die Todesfälle sind fast ausschliesslich auf den Einsatz von Schusswaffen durch die Sicherheitskräfte zurückzuführen. Ein Mann soll nach dem Einatmen von Tränengas gestorben sein, ein anderer nach Schlägen. Amnesty International geht davon aus, dass die Zahl der Todesopfer noch deutlich höher ist und führt ihre Untersuchungen fort.

«Die steigende Zahl der Todesopfer ist ein alarmierendes Zeichen dafür, wie rücksichtslos die iranischen Behörden gegen unbewaffnete Demonstranten gehen», sagt Philip Luther, Direktor für Advocacy für den Nahen und Mittleren Osten bei Amnesty International. «Die internationale Gemeinschaft muss den vorsätzlichen tödlichen Einsatz von Gewalt durch iranische Sicherheitskräfte verurteilen.»

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Obwohl der Uno-Hochkommissar für Menschenrechte, die EU und eine Reihe von Staaten den offensichtlichen Einsatz übermässiger Gewalt verurteilten, haben die iranischen Sicherheitskräfte die Anwendung tödlicher Gewalt nicht eingestellt.

«Die vorsichtige und zurückhaltende Reaktion der internationalen Gemeinschaft bleibt unzureichend. Die Regierungen müssen das Vorgehen gegen Demonstranten aufs Schärfste verurteilen und diese Ereignisse als das beschreiben, was sie sind: tödliche und völlig ungerechtfertigte Gewalt zur Unterdrückung von Dissens», sagte Philip Luther.

Schreckliche Berichte von AugenzeugInnen und Angehörigen der Opfer vor Ort, Informationen von Menschenrechtsaktivisten und Journalistinnen ausserhalb des Iran und umfangreiches Videomaterial, das vom Digital Verification Corps von Amnesty International analysiert wurde, belegen eindeutig, dass die iranischen Sicherheitskräfte absichtlich Schusswaffen gegen unbewaffnete DemonstrantInnen eingesetzt haben.