



## **PES Presidency Declaration**

### **Abysmal human and women rights situation in Iran** *Adopted by the PES Presidency on 15 December 2022*

Since the eruption of protests in Iran on 16 September 2022 following the death of Mahsa Amini for showing her hair, according to human rights organisations, more than 18 000 protesters have been arrested and hundreds of killings have been documented. Iran's regime continues to open fire on protesters and brutally beat and torture its population, which is fighting for democracy, freedom, and women's fundamental rights and dignity. State violence has increased drastically with Ali Khamenei looking favourably on execution of protesters.

Executions have started taking place under the charges of Muharaba – 'War against God' – an offense punishable by death sentence. Mohsen Shekari was the first to be sentenced to death under these charges in a fake trial without any due process.

Iran's security forces have shamefully killed more than 60 children and many more have been subject to violence and left injured. Amir Hussein Rahmi (15) is charged with Muharaba and has now spent more than 50 days in prison without the right to attorney.

Iran's regime continues to wage their systematic policy of violence – both internally, primarily against women, gender and religious minorities, as well as externally by supporting Russia with weapon shipments during its unjustified and unprovoked invasion of Ukraine.

PES strongly condemns state violence and killings of Iranian women, men and children and the outrageous practice of Muharaba executions. We also condemn the constant repression suffered by Iranian women just because of their gender.

As Europeans, we must continue our unwavering support and solidify our political measures to remedy the terrible situation that Iranian people, civil society and human rights defenders find themselves in. More than ever, the voice of people of Iran call for us to aid them in their struggle.

We must also reconsider the future of EU-Iran relations and sanction the Iranian regime for its outrageous and unforgivable actions.



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