

(English version)

Question for written answer E-003015/24
to the Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
Hanna Gedin (The Left)
(18 December 2024)

Subject: Human rights violations in Iran

Iran has intensified its systematic repression of women, minorities and opposition groups, with a notable escalation in human rights violations. Two years on from the 2022 ‘Woman Life Freedom’ uprising, no investigations or accountability measures have been undertaken by the Iranian regime for the human rights violations committed during that period. Women and minority groups remain the most vulnerable, facing an increasingly violent crackdown. Furthermore, the authorities have escalated the use of the death penalty as a tool for silencing dissent.

In the December 2022 Council conclusions on Iran, the EU reaffirmed its commitment to condemning all forms of systemic discrimination and supporting the aspirations of the Iranian people for their universal human rights to be respected. In this context, and considering that the EU allocated EUR 12.5 million in humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable in Iran in 2024:

1. What steps is the EU taking to ensure that its financial support reaches Iranian civil society actors, particularly those working to protect women’s and minority rights, given the severe risks they face under the current regime?
2. How does the EU ensure that its critical engagement policy effectively addresses the increasing impunity for crimes committed by the Iranian regime, and does it include concrete measures for holding Iran accountable?

Submitted: 18.12.2024

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas on behalf of the European Commission
(5 February 2025)

The EU strongly supports the fundamental aspiration of the people of Iran for a future where their universal human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected, protected and fulfilled.

The EU continuously engages and supports civil society both inside and outside Iran through the Commission, the High Representative/Vice-President, in cooperation with the European Parliament.

In the December 2022 Council conclusions ⁽¹⁾, the EU reconfirmed its resolute commitment to human rights in its policy towards Iran. Fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, both online and offline, freedom of assembly and freedom of association must be respected in all circumstances, and this can only be ensured by the existence of a strong and free civil society.

The EU has reacted promptly, both publicly and privately, to human rights violations in Iran, including by strongly supporting United Nations accountability mechanisms.

The EU’s humanitarian assistance has been instrumental in supporting the lifesaving needs of displaced Afghans in Iran, the world’s largest host country for refugees.

In 2024, the EU allocated EUR 12.45 million ⁽²⁾ for humanitarian programmes to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable, notably women and children, focusing on food security, health and education, among other areas.

The humanitarian assistance funded by the EU is delivered in partnership with United Nations agencies, international organisations and non-governmental organisations.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2022/12/12/iran-eu-adopts-council-conclusions-and-additional-restrictive-measures/>
⁽²⁾ https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/where/asia-and-pacific/iran_en