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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(5.3.2026)

The EU is a strong advocate for accountability mechanisms related to human rights violations in Iran, including those committed during the brutal repression of peaceful protests in January 2026. The EU urges Iran to allow free and unhindered access to the country for the UN mandate holders and to cooperate fully with the independent, international fact-finding mission and the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran. At the special session of the Human Rights Council on 23 January 2026, the EU strongly supported the work of the UN mechanisms and the extension of their mandate. The EU is also supporting civil society organisations, both outside and inside the country, but cannot provide more details given the sensitivity of such activities.

During the Foreign Affairs Council of 23 February 2026, the Commission raised the point on continuing support to civil society organisations and the importance of coordinated Member State action. Civil society remains key to supporting Iranians in their bid to live a life of dignity under good governance.

As part of a strong EU response to the violent repression of peaceful protesters, the Council adopted new restrictive measures against perpetrators of serious human rights violations in the context of the recent nationwide protests, including prominent figures such as the Minister of Interior of the Islamic Republic of Iran¹ and reached the political agreement to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps under Council Common Position of 27 December 2001 on the application of specific measures to combat terrorism (2001/931/CFSP)² as a terrorist organisation.

The EU will continue to use all available tools, including new restrictive measures, to advance EU interests and address all issues of concern with Iran.

¹ <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/01/29/iran-council-adopts-new-sanctions-over-serious-human-rights-violations-and-iran-s-continued-support-to-russia-s-war-of-aggression-against-ukraine/>.

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/compos/2001/931/oj/eng>.