

TAL SHIAR



DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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Iranian Regime To Suppress Major Nationwide Protests

Prepared by Tal Shiar Directorate of Intelligence – 13 January 2026

Absent external military intervention, the Iranian regime will suppress widespread anti-government protests, preventing a full-scale uprising that initially threatened regime stability amid severe economic collapse and regional setbacks. Sparked by currency devaluation and inflation in late December 2025, demonstrations rapidly evolved into calls for regime change across all 31 provinces, drawing millions into the streets and exposing deep public discontent with economic mismanagement,



corruption, and repression. However, through aggressive security measures—including nationwide internet blackouts, mass arrests, lethal force, and pro-regime counter-rallies—the Islamic Republic is re-gaining control, with protests being reduced.

- Iranian security forces have killed an estimated 10,000+ protesters with thousands arrested, mirroring brutal tactics used in 2019 and 2022 Mahsa Amini protests per opposition sources.
- Nationwide internet blackout (ongoing since early January) disrupted coordination and obscured repression scale, while pro-government rallies in Tehran projected regime support.

- Protests peaked in early January with widespread geographic spread (180+ cities), but suppression tactics—including live fire and arrests—have reduced momentum, with officials claiming control restored.

IRGC and Basij Militia Lead Attacks Against the Protestors.

The Iranian regime's violent suppression of nationwide protests relies primarily on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), its paramilitary Basij militia are the leading security forces in repressing nation wide protests, cementing their reputation as regime loyalists. This coercive apparatus—ideologically loyal and experienced in crowd control—has enabled the regime to contain widespread unrest despite initial bandwidth strains on standard forces. The heavy involvement of IRGC and Basij, including lethal force and live ammunition, signals the regime views the demonstrations as an existential threat, framing protesters as "terrorists" to justify extreme measures. With this structure in place, the regime is unlikely to collapse and will continue to use coercive measures and the opposition.



IRGC Parade

- **IRGC:** It is the core ideological force loyal to the Supreme Leader. It's role is to protect the Islamic Republic system, control ballistic missiles, cyber units, intelligence and internal suppression. It includes ground forces, aerospace forces, navy, intelligence, and Quds Force with an estimated size of 190,000 – 250,000.
- **Basij (Paramilitary Militia):** A volunteer militia under IRGC command, used heavily for internal repression. Its role includes street-level suppression of protests, morality policing, mobilization during unrest and ideological enforcement. Reported to have 1 million registered members, with 100,000–300,000 active.
- **Law Enforcement Command (LEC / NAJA):** Iran's national police force, heavily militarized. Its role include riot police, morality police (Gasht-e Ershad), crowd control, anti-protest operations. Estimated size is 60,000 to 100,000 personal.

Conclusion

The Iranian regime has successfully quelled major protests through overwhelming force and information control, preserving short-term stability. However, the scale of unrest—unprecedented since 2022—signals enduring fragility. Sustained repression may delay but not eliminate risks of future escalation, particularly amid ongoing economic crisis and geopolitical isolation. Absent external military intervention, the regime will hold power and continue to utilize repressive measure against future protests.

List of Large Scale Anti-Regime Protests Against the Regime

Protest	Trigger	Estimated Size	Casualties	Ending / Outcome
1999 Student Protests	Closure of reformist newspaper; broader push for freedoms	Tens of thousands	Several killed; hundreds injured	Suppressed by security forces
2009 Green Movement	Alleged presidential election fraud	Millions in Tehran and other cities	Dozens killed; thousands arrested	Movement crushed; leaders placed under house arrest
2017–2018 Economic Protests	Rising prices, unemployment, corruption	Hundreds of thousands	At least 25 killed	Security crackdown; protests faded
2019 Fuel Price Protests	Sudden fuel price hike	Hundreds of thousands	300+ killed	Internet shutdown; protests violently suppressed
2022 Mahsa Amini / “Woman, Life, Freedom”	Death of Mahsa Amini in morality-police custody	Nationwide; millions participated over months (widely reported)	Hundreds killed; thousands arrested	Continued sporadically; harsh crackdown
2025–2026 Economic Collapse Protests	Soaring prices, currency collapse	Nationwide; protests in 186 cities	At least 2K+ killed and 10,681 arrested	Ongoing unrest; government repression intensifies



Tal Shiar was founded by Nadeem Iqbal, a national security expert who served over 16 years as an intelligence officer for the Department of Defense from 2006-2022. His career began as a counter-insurgency analyst on the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force (2006–2013), followed by 9 years as a military analyst in the Syria Branch (2013–2022). He deployed five times in support of combat operations (3× Afghanistan, 2× Iraq), including two rotations with

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