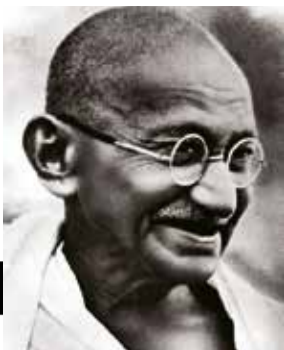


1528

Gustav I of Sweden is crowned King of Sweden, rules for 37 years, and becomes known as the "father of the nation"

1554

Bayinnaung is crowned King of Burma, assembles the largest empire in the history of Southeast Asia



1872 1948

Yohannes IV is crowned Emperor of Ethiopia in Axum, 1st imperial coronation in Axum in over 200 years

Mahatma Gandhi begins his final fast

X

TOP  
4  
TWEETS

01



My thoughts turn to the situation currently unfolding in the Middle East, especially in Iran and Syria, where ongoing tensions continue to claim many lives. I hope and pray that dialogue and peace may be patiently nurtured in pursuit of the common good of the whole of society. #PrayTogether

@Pontifex

02



Welcome the encouraging announcements by the Lebanese authorities to restore the State's monopoly on weapons. This process must be pursued resolutely. The second phase of the plan will be a decisive step. he ceasefire agreement must be strictly respected by all parties. Lebanon's sovereignty must be fully restored.

@EmmanuelMacron

03



As the repression intensifies, and the loss of innocent lives continue, we are monitoring the situation carefully. Europe stands with the people of Iran in their legitimate fight for freedom.

@vonderleyen

04



In many regions, the situation remains difficult after Russian strikes on our critical infrastructure. Energy workers and repair crews are working around the clock to restore electricity, heat, and water supply for people.

@ZelenskyyUA

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stance)

# Iran protest death toll rises as alarm grows over crackdown **'massacre'**

Many protesters had been shot in the eyes in a deliberate tactic

● Rights group says at least 192 killed in Iran protests

● Israel calls on EU to label Iran's Revolutionary Guards 'terrorist organisation'

● Iran internet blackout has now lasted over 60 hours: monitor

● Videos allegedly showed relatives in a Tehran morgue identifying bodies of protesters

● Iran authorities make 'significant' arrests over protests: national police chief

● 'Rioters' must not disrupt Iranian society: President Pezeshkian on state TV

● Iran would target US military, shipping if attacked: parliament speaker

AFP | Paris, France

At least 192 protesters have been killed in Iran's biggest movement against the Islamic republic in more than three years, a rights group said yesterday, as warnings grew that authorities were committing a "massacre" to quell the demonstrations.

The protests, initially sparked by anger over the rising cost of living, have now become a movement against the theo-

cratic system in place in Iran since the 1979 revolution and have already lasted two weeks.

The mass rallies are one of the biggest challenges to the rule of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, 86, coming in the wake of Israel's 12-day war against the Islamic republic in June, which was backed by the United States.

Protests have swelled in recent days despite an internet blackout that has lasted more than 60 hours, according to monitor Netblocks, with activists warning the shutdown was limiting the flow of information and the actual toll risks being far higher.

"Since the start of the protests, Iran Human Rights has confirmed the killing of at least 192 protesters," the Norway-based non-governmental organisation said, warning that the deaths "may be even more extensive than we currently imagine".

Videos of large demonstrations in the capital Tehran and other cities over the past three nights have filtered out despite the internet cut that has rendered impossible normal communication with the outside world via messaging apps or even phone lines.

Video verified by AFP showed large crowds taking to the streets in new protests on Saturday night in several Iranian cities including Tehran and Mashhad in the east, where images showed vehicles set on fire.

Several circulating videos, which have not been verified by AFP, allegedly showed relatives in a Tehran morgue identifying bodies of protesters killed in the crackdown.

The US-based Center for Human Rights in Iran (CHRI) said it had received "eyewitness accounts and credible reports indicating that hundreds of protesters have been killed across Iran during the current internet

shutdown".

"A massacre is unfolding in Iran. The world must act now to prevent further loss of life," it said.

It said hospitals were "overwhelmed", blood supplies were running low and that many protesters had been shot in the eyes in a deliberate tactic.

**'Shot in the eyes'**

Iran's security chief Ali Larijani drew a line between protests over economic hardship, which he called "completely understandable", and "riots", accusing them of actions "very similar to the methods of terrorist groups", Tasnim news agency reported.

Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian said "rioters" must not disrupt Iranian society.

"The people (of Iran) should not allow rioters to disrupt society. The people should believe that we (the government) want to establish justice," he told state broadcaster IRIB.

In Tehran, an AFP journalist described a city in a state of near paralysis.

The price of meat has nearly doubled since the start of the protests, and while some shops are open, many others are not.

Those that do open must close at around 4:00 or 5:00 pm, when security forces deploy in force.

**'Would hit back'**

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said Iran would hit back if the US launched military action.

"In the event of a military attack by the United States, both the occupied territory and centres of the US military and shipping will be our legitimate targets," he said in comments broadcast by state TV.

He was apparently also referring to Israel, which the Islamic republic does not recognise and considers occupied Palestinian territory.



This grab taken from UGC images posted on social media the same day shows Iranian security forces using tear gas to disperse protesters at the Tehran bazaar.

## Israel army issues **evacuation warning** for Lebanon village ahead of strikes

AFP | Jerusalem, Undefined

The Israeli army issued an evacuation warning on Sunday for the village of Kafr Hatta in southern Lebanon ahead of air strikes on Hezbollah targets in the area.

"The IDF (army) will soon, and once again, strike terrorist Hezbollah military infrastructure in the village, in order to address the prohibited attempts it is making to rebuild its activities there," Arabic-language spokesman Colonel Avichay Adraee wrote on X.

"We urge residents of the area... you are located near a



A French peacekeeper of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) stands by munitions formerly used by Iran-backed Hezbollah at a position that was held by the group in the Khraibeh Valley in el-Meri in south Lebanon

compound used by Hezbollah. For your safety, you must evacuate it immediately and move at least 300 metres (980 feet) away. Remaining in the marked area puts your lives at risk," the warning said.

The Lebanese army said Thursday that it had completed disarming Hezbollah south of the Litani river, the first phase of a nationwide plan. Kafr Hatta is located north of the river.

Earlier on Sunday, the Israeli army announced in a statement that it had carried out strikes against what it said was Hezbollah infrastructure in other areas of south Lebanon "in response

to Hezbollah's continuous violations of the ceasefire understandings."

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported "a series of violent Israeli strikes" on Jezzine, Mahmudiyeh and Al-Dimasqiyeh, as well as "more than 10 strikes" on Al-Bureij, all in southern Lebanon.

Under heavy US pressure and amid fears of expanded Israeli strikes, Lebanon has committed to disarming the, which was badly weakened after more than a year of hostilities including two months of all-out war that ended with a November 2024 ceasefire with Israel.