

# Iranians keep up protests over Mahsa Amini death despite growing death toll

- Khamenei dismisses protests as 'scattered riots'
- Rights group says death toll in unrest climbs to 201
- Protests reported in Tehran, Isfahan and elsewhere
- Kurdish towns go on strike, rights group says

Reuters | Dubai

Iranians kept up anti-government protests yesterday despite an increasingly deadly state crackdown, social media reports showed, as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei dismissed the demonstrations as "scattered riots" planned by Iran's enemies. Protests ignited by the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in the custody of Iran's



A police motorcycle burns during a protest over the death of Mahsa Amini, a woman who died after being arrested by the Islamic republic's "morality police", in Tehran, Iran

morality police on Sept. 16 have turned into one of the boldest challenges to the clerical leadership since the 1979 revolution. A crowd of at least 100 people blocked a road in central Tehran, shouting "by cannon, tank or firecracker, mullahs must get lost", one video showed. Another video showed dozens of riot police deployed in a Tehran street where a fire was burning. Tear gas was fired during a protest outside the lawyers association in Tehran, where

demonstrators who appeared to number in the dozens had chanted "women, life freedom", videos posted on social media showed. Reuters could not independently verify the videos. In an apparently coordinated effort, activist groups called for protesters to gather from early afternoon, breaking the pattern of nighttime demonstrations that have prevailed since unrest began sweeping Iran nearly four weeks ago. While observers do not believe the protests are close to toppling the government - the authorities withstood six months of protests in 2009 over a disputed election - the unrest has underlined pent-up frustrations over freedoms and rights. The widely followed 1500tasvir Twitter account shared what it described as a video showing morality police in Tehran arresting a woman over her hijab. A woman could be heard shouting "leave her alone!" The Norway-based Iran Human Rights organisation said the death toll had increased to at least 201 civilians during the

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Amini's death has struck a nerve, bringing a broad sweep of Iranians onto the streets, with protesters expressing anger at the heavy handedness of morality police and saying the victim could have been anyone's mother, sister or daughter.

unrest, including 23 minors. Its previous report, on Oct. 8, put the death toll at 185 people. The authorities have said around 20 members of the security forces have been killed. Iran has accused its enemies including the United States of fomenting the unrest.

# US firm supplied networking tech to maker of Russian missiles



- Extreme Networks says Reuters discovery leads it to believe its products were shipped to "bad actors" in Russia
- Extreme Networks says it is informing US authorities of export-control violation
- Extreme Networks says distributor played role in "scheme"
- Extreme Networks

supplied equipment used in MMZ Avangard's office IT systems

● MMZ Avangard is maker of missile used in recent Ukraine attack

Reuters | Washington

Since Russia annexed Crimea in 2014, American companies have been prohibited from dealing with MMZ Avangard, a state-owned firm that makes missiles for one of Russia's most sophisticated weapons, the S-400 air-defense system.



Russian servicemen work inside a command centre after a new S-400 "Triumph" surface-to-air missile system was deployed at a military base outside the town of Gvardeysk near Kaliningrad, Russia

In a measure of Western concern about the S-400, the United States ejected Turkey, a NATO member, from a joint fighter jet program in 2019 after Ankara took delivery of the Russian system. But even as the United States was taking actions to blunt MMZ Avangard's business, a publicly traded American technology company, Extreme Networks (EXTR.O), was providing MMZ Avangard with computer networking equipment for its office IT systems, according to emails and other business records seen by Reuters, as well as interviews with people familiar with the matter. In a statement to Reuters, Extreme said that based on information provided by the news agency it believed equipment "may have" been sold to MMZ Avangard using a surrogate buy-

er. Extreme said the equipment was sold without its knowledge. It added, without providing evidence, that an intermediary in Russia was "complicit" in supplying its products via a front company to "bad actors." Extreme said it is reporting its findings of these potential sales to US authorities. Ukraine has accused Russia of deploying missiles made by MMZ Avangard against ground targets since Russia launched what it terms its "special operation" on Feb. 24. Ukrainian authorities said MMZ Avangard missiles killed at least thirty civilians in a gruesome attack against a convoy on the edge of the southern city of Zaporizhzhia last month. Neither Kremlin officials nor MMZ Avangard responded to questions for this article. MMZ Avangard's parent, Almaz-Antey, also didn't comment.

Between 2017 and 2021, MMZ Avangard obtained over half a million dollars' worth of Extreme equipment for its IT systems, according to the business records reviewed by Reuters and the people familiar with the matter. The products included high-speed switches, an essential building block of corporate IT networks, and software. The records also show that the deals went through a seemingly innocuous corporation near Moscow, and despite two Extreme officials raising concerns, the sales went forward. That a Russian military company, identified as a threat by Washington, continued to acquire US computer hardware is a case study in how Western countries may have overestimated their ability to choke the Russian economy with export bans and trade sanctions. It also highlights how dependent Russia's military machine is on US high-tech equipment. In April, six weeks after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, an Extreme employee filed an internal complaint, seen by Reuters, alleging that the company was selling to various military manufacturers in Russia. "Extreme equipment is used on Russian warships," the complaint said, "in communications systems." Extreme said in its statement that the allegations were brought by a disgruntled employee. An investigation by the firm had found nothing to corroborate any of the claims until Reuters brought "new facts" to the com-

pany's attention this month. The company said it ceased operations in Russia in March, adding that it subsequently launched a process to dismiss the disgruntled employee for poor performance. It said it has no records of sales involving Russian warships. Extreme, which trades on the NASDAQ exchange and is headquartered in Morrisville, North Carolina, has earned a solid reputation in the United States and is an official partner of the National Football League. The NFL declined to comment for this article. A Reuters investigation in August found that while the United States and allies banned high-tech exports to Russia to try to cripple its defense industry, and many tech companies announced that they had halted exports to Russia, the flow of Western brand-name computer parts to Russian clients hasn't stopped. This account of how Extreme supplied MMZ Avangard and at least two other Russian military companies is based on interviews with three people familiar with the shipments as well as a review by Reuters of documents spanning five years to 2021. The documents include sales records and email exchanges between Extreme employees, customers and distributors. The shipments are reported here for the first time. The US Department of Commerce, which administers export restrictions, declined to comment for this story.

## CLASSIFIEDS

### MATRIMONIAL NOTICE

I, MR. OSCAR ANTONY VARGHESE, S/o. Mr. Bijou Varghese Parrappallil, holder of **Indian Passport No. S6628017** issued at Bahrain on 20/05/2018, permanent residence at Parappallil House, Kadamankulam, Kalladppara, Thiruvalla, Kerala, **INDIA** and temporary resident of Villa 1203, Road 3927, Block 439, North Sehla, **KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** and **MS. STASIA FRANCESCA MONTEIRO**, holder of **INDIAN PASSPORT NO. S6634233**, issued at **BAHRAIN** on 07/08/2018, permanent residence at House No. 911, Vauxem, Loutulim, Salcete Goa 403718 and temporary resident of Villa 1203, Road 3927, Block 439, North Sehla, **KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** intend to solemnize our civil marriage during 20/11/2022 at the **EMBASSY OF INDIA**, Building 1090, Al Seef, P.O. Box 26106, Kingdom of Bahrain under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969 of India. Objection(s), if any, may be forwarded to the **EMBASSY OF INDIA, KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN** within a period of 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

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