



January 15, 2026

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, *Prime Minister of Canada*

The Honourable Anita Anand, *Minister of Foreign Affairs*

The Honourable Pierre Poilievre, *Leader of the Official Opposition*

Members of the Canadian Senate

Members of the House of Commons

Dear Prime Minister Carney, Minister Anand, Leader of the Opposition, and Honourable Members of Senate and Parliament,

RE: Current national uprising in Iran

We write on behalf of Iranian-Canadian Legal Professionals, representing more than 400 Canadian lawyers, law students and court translators of Iranian heritage, to express our profound concern regarding the grave and escalating human rights violations being committed against the Iranian people by the Islamic Republic regime. Over the past two weeks, millions of Iranians have protested across the country to demand freedom, justice and regime change and have been met with a brutal crackdown. Alarming reports indicate thousands have been killed, injured and arrested. The situation has reached a critical juncture that demands immediate international attention and action.

As members of Canada's legal community, we feel a professional and moral obligation to speak out against widespread abuses that constitute clear violations of fundamental legal principles established under international law which protect the rights to life, liberty, freedom of expression, and peaceful assembly. Multiple international organizations and news agencies have documented the use of lethal force against peaceful protestors, mass arrests, arbitrary detentions, and forced disappearances. There are also reports of attacks on hospitals and preventing medical staff from administration of urgent medical care to the injured resulting in the severity of their injuries or death. These criminal acts are being carried out amid deliberate internet and communications blackouts designed to obscure the true scale of atrocities, prevent independent verification and accountability.

We are also alarmed by the situation of Canadian citizens and dual nationals and permanent residents currently in Iran. The regime's systematic disruption of communication channels has left families in Canada in distress, unable to confirm the safety or whereabouts of their

loved ones. The continued risk of arbitrary detention of dual nationals and permanent residents needs the Canadian government's urgent and coordinated action.

In light of these circumstances and Canada's commitments under international human rights law and to its own citizens, we respectfully urge the Government of Canada, in coordination with its democratic allies, to take decisive steps, including:

- Asking Canada's allies to immediately expel or caution the regime diplomats and close Iranian embassies that function as tools of intimidation, surveillance, and transnational repression against dissidents abroad;
- Publicly and unequivocally condemning the regime's use of lethal force against protestors and obstruction of administration of medical care to the injured, and support international investigations into crimes against humanity through the United Nations Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court;
- Taking concrete diplomatic measures to protect Canadian citizens and dual nationals in Iran, including establishing emergency consular services through third-party intermediaries, and demanding immediate access to detained Canadian nationals; and
- Engaging with Iranian opposition leaders, civil society groups, and community activists who are committed to a democratic transition, including material support where appropriate, consistent with Canada's engagement with democratic movements globally.

Canada has long been recognized as a principled defender of human rights, the rule of law, and democratic values. The Iranian people's legitimate aspirations for freedom, dignity, and self-determination align with the fundamental values Canada champions internationally. We respectfully ask that Canada demonstrate its international leadership through more concrete action.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We stand ready to engage constructively and assist in any way we can.

Respectfully,

Iranian-Canadian Legal Professionals

Co-signed by:

Women's Law Association of Ontario

Macedonian Canadian Lawyers' Association