



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Luxembourg, 10 October 2011
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PRESSE 356

EU reinforces restrictive measures due to serious human rights violations in Iran

The Foreign Affairs Council today expressed its profound concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Iran. It thus reinforced the EU's restrictive measures against persons responsible for serious human rights violations in that country, adding 29 persons to the list of those targeted by an assets freeze and a visa ban.

Today's decisions, together with the list of additional designations, will be published in the Official Journal of 12 October.

The Council adopted the following conclusions:

- "1. The European Union is deeply concerned that the human rights situation in Iran continues to deteriorate. The EU is appalled by the continued dramatic increase in executions in Iran, including the execution of minors, and is concerned that many of those were held in public and using particularly cruel and inhumane methods. On this day, the World Day against the Death Penalty, the EU reiterates its call on Iran immediately to establish a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its complete abolition.
2. The EU also deplores the widespread repression of Iranian citizens, including human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, film makers, women's activists, bloggers, persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities and members of the opposition, who face harassment and arrests for exercising their legitimate rights. In this context, the EU appeals to Iran for the immediate and unconditional release of all those detained on these grounds, including Youcef Nadarkhani. The EU reiterates its strong condemnation of the use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. It also calls on Iran to release immediately all political prisoners.

P R E S S

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3. The EU calls on the Iranian authorities to cease repression of Iranian political opposition and to lift restrictions on freedom of movement and communication of its members, including Mir Hossein Moussavi and Mehdi Karoubi.
 4. The EU calls on the Iranian authorities to live up to their international human rights obligations, so as to protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms to which the Iranian people are entitled. In this regard the EU calls on the Iranian authorities to lift restrictions on communications, including internet censorship, and put an immediate end to jamming of satellite broadcasting. Furthermore, the EU calls on Iran to cooperate fully with the United Nations on the situation of human rights in Iran, including by implementing the recommendations Iran has accepted through the Universal Periodic Review and working with the UN Special Rapporteur, giving him access to the country.
 5. The European Union will continue to address human rights abuses in Iran. The Council has therefore decided to extend the application of its restrictive measures adopted on 12 April 2011 targeted against those responsible for grave human rights violations, to additional individuals. The EU will also continue to speak out in support of individuals and civil society organizations which stand up for the human rights which all Iranians should enjoy. At the same time, the EU remains ready to discuss human rights issues with the Iranian authorities and to keep channels of communication open to that end."
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