

Iran: Four decades of defiance

Every major wave of popular protest since the Shah's overthrow in 1979 has sparked renewed talk of regime change – only to be met, each time, with a brutal response by the authorities

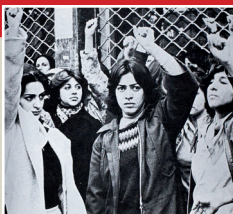
Opposition supporter during clashes with security forces in Tehran on Dec 27, 2009



1980

1979: Post-revolution protests

Less than two weeks after Islamic Revolution, thousands of women march in Tehran against decree mandating hijab. **Mandatory veiling is enforced nationwide in following years**



1990

July 1999: Student protests

Tehran University students protest closure of reformist newspaper **Salam**. Police raid dormitories, triggering demonstrations in multiple cities. **Security crackdown leaves several students dead and hundreds jailed**

2010

2009: Green Movement

Millions protest disputed presidential election results that returned **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** to power. Security forces and **Basij** militias crush rallies after weeks of unrest, killing dozens and arresting thousands



2000

2019: "Bloody November"

Fuel price hike sparks nationwide protests. State imposes internet blackout for first time as **IRGC** and police suppress demonstrations, killing hundreds, according to rights groups

2020

2022-23: Mahsa Amini uprising

Death of 22-year-old **Jina Mahsa Amini** (right) in police custody triggers mass protests demanding women's rights and political change. **Hundreds killed, over 20,000 arrested, several protesters executed during months of unrest**



2025-26: Economic unrest

Currency collapse and economic mismanagement spark nationwide protests, with chants questioning legitimacy of Supreme Leader **Ali Khamenei**. **Around 2,000 people reportedly killed in security crackdown amid threats by U.S. President Donald Trump to intervene**