

# UK sanctions Iranian 'Morality Police' and senior security officials

The UK has imposed sanctions on senior security and political figures in Iran and the so-called Morality Police.

Mahsa Amini's death, following her arrest by the Morality Police, has sparked protests across Iran and shocked the world. For decades the Morality Police have used the threat of detention and violence to control what Iranian women wear and how they behave in public.

In response, the UK has today sanctioned the Morality Police in its entirety, as well as both its chief Mohammed Rostami Cheshmeh Gachi and the Head of the Tehran Division Haj Ahmed Mirzaei.

The UK is also imposing sanctions today on five leading political and security officials in Iran for committing serious human rights violations, including:

- Gholamreza Soleimani, the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps' Basij force, responsible for internal security in Iran.
- Hassan Karami, the Commander of the NAJA Special Forces Unit of the Iranian police.
- Hossein Ashtari, the Commander-in-chief of the Iranian police.

The Basij force, NAJA Special Forces Unit and the wider Iranian police have played a central role in the crackdown on protests across Iran in recent weeks, as well as the fuel-related protests in 2019.

There have been reports of live ammunition being used against protestors, including when students were blockaded by security forces at the Sharif University earlier this week, and the bodies of protestors killed by security services buried without the families' knowledge.

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly said:

The UK stands with the people of Iran who are bravely calling for accountability from their government and for their fundamental human rights to be respected.

These sanctions send a clear message to the Iranian authorities – we will hold you to account for your repression of women and girls and for the shocking violence you have inflicted on your own people.

These sanctions will ensure that the individuals on the list cannot travel to the UK and any of their assets held in the UK, or by UK persons anywhere, will be frozen.

Earlier this week the [Foreign Secretary instructed the FCDO to summon the Iranian Chargé d’Affaires](#) to express the UK’s condemnation of the Iranian authorities’ violent crackdown on protests.

### **Background:**

The Sanctions List has been updated [here](#).

The list of those who have been designated as part of the Morality Police designations is below:

- Morality Police
- Mohammad Rostami Cheshmeh Gachi (Head of the Morality Police)
- Haj Ahmad Mirzaei (Head of the Tehran division of the Morality Police)

Sanctions are imposed on the group below over their role in the violent crackdown on fuel-related protests in Iran in 2019:

- Gholamreza Soleimani (Head of the Basij Organisation)
- Hassan Karami (Commander of the NAJA (Police) Special Unit)
- Hossein Ashtari (Commander-in-Chief of Iran’s Police Forces)
- Leila Vaseghi (former Governor of Shahr-e Qods province)
- Hassan Shahvarpour (commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in Khuzestan province and Deputy of the South West Karbala Headquarters)