



High Council for Human Rights of  
the Islamic Republic of Iran

No. 3

# **An Elucidating Report on: Foreign Intervention in Events in the Islamic Republic of Iran from an International Law Perspective**

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of The Islamic Republic of Iran**

**(January 2026)**

# *In the Name of GOD*

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## Introduction

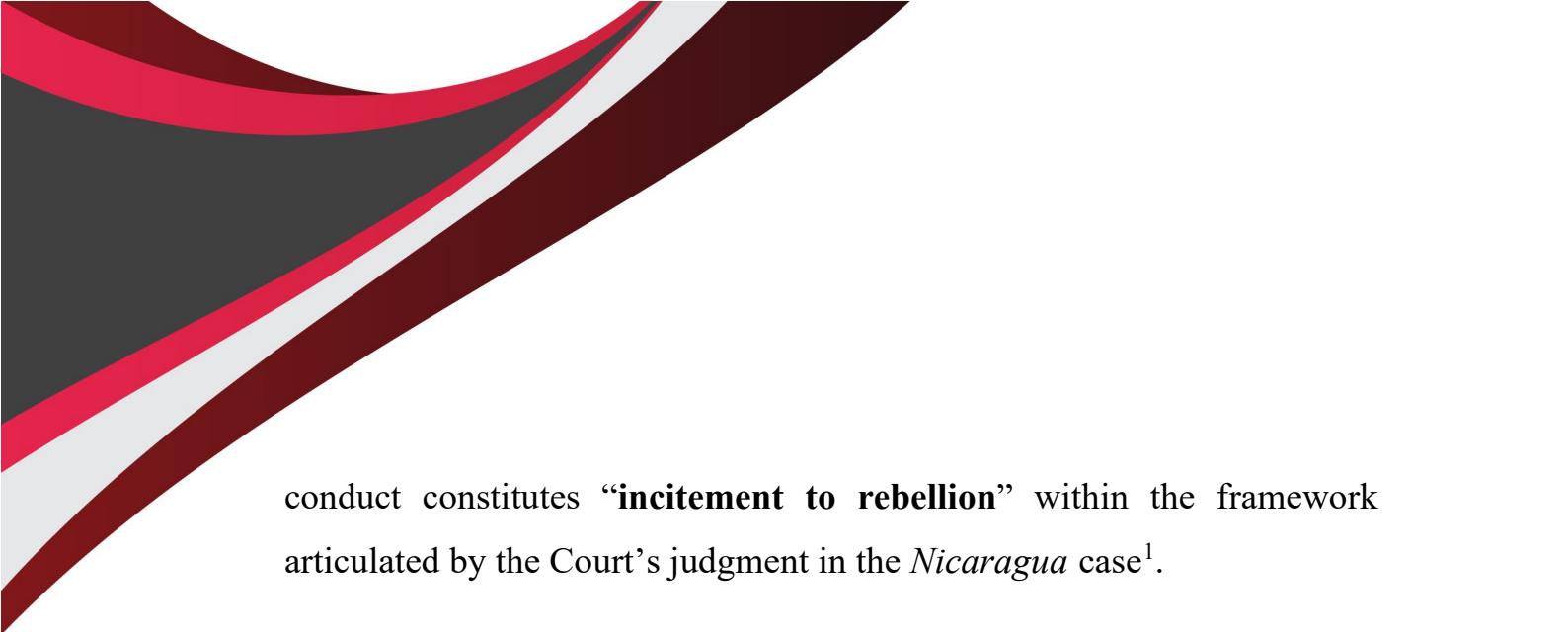
In recent years, we have witnessed the emergence of a dangerous pattern in international relations: the selective use of human rights rhetoric to conceal and justify **interventionist actions in the domestic affairs of states**. Focusing on internal developments in the Islamic Republic of Iran, this report demonstrates that behind claims framed as human rights concerns lies a **coordinated external campaign** aimed at influencing Iran's internal processes. The purpose of this analysis is to move beyond emotive discourse and to focus on **legal evidence of violations of well-established principles of international law**, particularly the principle of non-intervention, by third states. This examination is grounded in **Articles 2(4) and 2(7) of the United Nations Charter, the General Assembly Declaration 2625 (1970)**, and the landmark judgment of the International Court of Justice in the *Nicaragua* case.

## Chapter 1: Documenting new forms of intervention in Iran's domestic affairs

In the twenty-first century, intervention rarely takes the form of direct military action. Instead, it has been replaced by more complex modalities, including “hybrid warfare” and “non-military coercive measures”.

### 1. Systematic media support and psychological warfare

- **Media networking:** The establishment and support of transnational media networks (such as **Voice of America, Radio Farda, and Iran International**) that are funded directly by foreign governments (for example, through the **United States International Broadcasting Board**). Rather than providing neutral information, these outlets often engage in the production of one-sided and provocative content, frequently containing unverified reports, with the aim of intensifying public discontent and encouraging civil disobedience.
- **Biased algorithms:** The use of major social media platforms to amplify specific narratives and to manufacture **unreal trends** against the government of Iran. Studies have shown an increase in the activity of bots and fake accounts linked to certain states within the Persian-language online sphere.
- **Hostile public diplomacy:** The issuance of statements and delivery of speeches by foreign officials that go beyond expressing general concern and instead explicitly name and encourage specific domestic actors. Such



conduct constitutes “**incitement to rebellion**” within the framework articulated by the Court’s judgment in the *Nicaragua* case<sup>1</sup>.

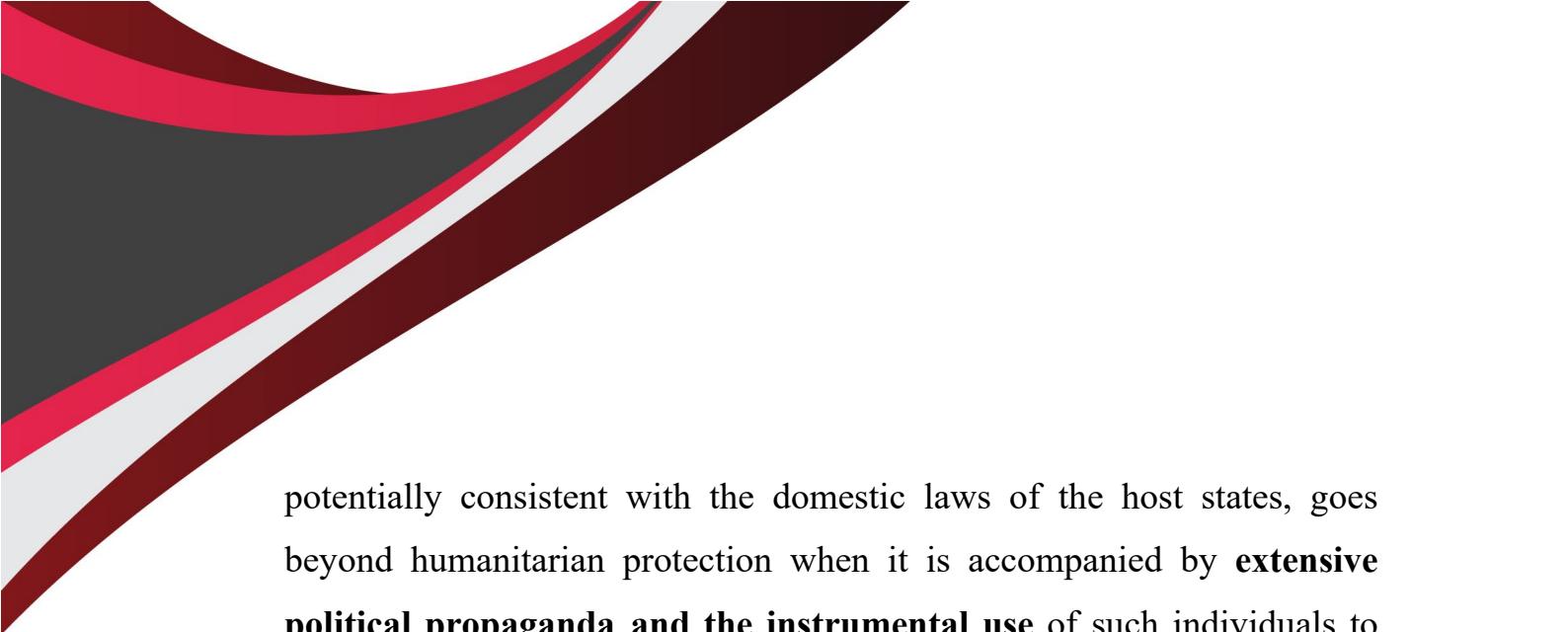
## 2. Financial and logistical support

- **Funding opposition groups:** According to published reports, foundations affiliated with certain governments (such as the U.S. **National Endowment for Democracy (NED)**) regularly allocate funding to non-governmental organizations and Iranian opposition groups based abroad. While the stated objective of these grants is “strengthening civil society” or “supporting democracy,” in practice these resources are used for **anti-government propaganda, activist training, and the organization of international pressure campaigns.**
- **Provision of political asylum and logistical support:** Granting asylum to individuals who are subject to judicial proceedings in Iran, while

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<sup>1</sup> The Judgment (Paragraph 245): “The Court considers that, under international law, if a state, with the aim of coercing another state, supports and assists insurgents in that country in violation of its territorial integrity and political independence, organizes or encourages the organization of irregular forces or armed groups to invade its territory, participates in internal conflicts or terrorism in another state, or, by supporting domestic elements, promotes the overthrow of its government, such conduct constitutes intervention in the internal affairs of another state.

(Paragraph 255): “Accordingly, the Court finds that the support provided by the United States, up to the end of September 1984, to the military and paramilitary activities of the Contras in Nicaragua—through financial backing, training, provision of weapons, intelligence, and logistical support—constituted a clear violation of the principle of non-intervention. In paragraph 245, the Court explicitly regards “encouraging the overthrow of a government through support of domestic elements” as an example of unlawful intervention.



potentially consistent with the domestic laws of the host states, goes beyond humanitarian protection when it is accompanied by **extensive political propaganda and the instrumental use** of such individuals to delegitimize the Iranian government. In such circumstances, it crosses the threshold from humanitarian support into interference.

### 3. Training, organizing, and technology transfer

- **Overseas training workshops:** The organization of training programs for Iranian activists outside the country under titles such as “civil society leadership training,” “social organizing skills,” or “digital security.” The content of these trainings often centers on **techniques for confronting the government, circumventing filtering mechanisms, and establishing secure communication networks.**
- **Provision of secure communication tools:** Supplying and training individuals inside Iran in the use of **specific encrypted communication software and tools.** While the right to privacy is respected, when these measures are carried out in a targeted manner to assist in organizing activities that may violate Iran’s domestic laws, they take on an interventionist character.

## Chapter 2: International responsibility of intervening states in international law

Under international law<sup>2</sup>, each of the aforementioned actions may entail the international responsibility of the supporting state.

### 1. Attribution of conduct to a state (Articles 4–11 of the Draft Articles):

- **Effective control:** If a foreign state exercises effective control over the actors or media receiving assistance, their actions are attributed to the state<sup>3</sup>. Proving such control in modern interventions is complex but not impossible.
- **Direction and control:** If a foreign state gives specific orders or instructions to commit an internationally wrongful act (such as organizing unrest), it is responsible<sup>4</sup>.
- **Aid or assistance:** Even if full control does not exist, Article 16 of the Draft Articles provides that a state that knowingly aids another state in committing an internationally wrongful act, is internationally responsible if that act occurs. Providing funding and training with knowledge of subversive objectives may fall under this provision

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<sup>2</sup> Draft articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts (2001)

<sup>3</sup> Article 8 of the Draft

<sup>4</sup> Article 8 of the Draft

## **2. Violation of international obligation: The principle of non-intervention**

An internationally wrongful act in this context constitutes a **breach of the principle of non-intervention**, which is a binding customary norm and is enshrined in the Charter. The International Court of Justice, in the *Nicaragua Case (1986)*, explicitly stated: “The principle of non-intervention... includes the right of every state to freely determine its political, economic, social, and cultural system without interference by any other state.” Providing assistance to groups that aim to forcibly change this system constitutes a violation of this principle.

## **3. Legal consequences of international responsibility:**

As the injured state, Iran has the right under international law to:

- Request the **immediate cessation** of these internationally wrongful acts;
- Demand assurances and **guarantees of non-repetition**;
- Claim **reparation** for damages resulting from these interventions, including both material and moral harm.

## Chapter 3: Comparative analysis with international practice: An obvious double standard

Examining the international community's response to similar events in other countries reveals a striking **double standard and a violation of the principle of equality of state sovereignty**.

### 1. Comparison with the reactions to unrest in western allied countries:

- **“Black Lives Matter” protests in the USA, 2020<sup>5</sup>:** Despite the widespread nature of the protests, violence, and some property damage, no foreign state considered passing a resolution against the United States at the Human Rights Council. International media largely emphasized the social roots of the protests. The U.S. government's response (including mobilization of the National Guard) was accepted as the exercise of that country's sovereign right to maintain order.
- **“Yellow Vest” protests in France (2018–2019):** Despite significant violence, damage to historical property, and clashes with police, no country accused France of a “systematic human rights violation,” nor were any sanctions imposed.

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<sup>5</sup> This event refers to a widespread social movement and a series of nationwide protests in the United States in 2020, which arose in response to the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, by a white police officer in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020

- **The Zionist Regime actions in the Occupied Territories of Palestine:**  
Despite hundreds of UN resolutions, no effective, systematic measures have been taken against this regime due to the support of major powers.

This comparison clearly demonstrates that the issue is **not human rights in the general sense**; rather, it reflects the **instrumental and political use of the human rights discourse to pressure geopolitical rivals**. This approach undermines the **credibility of international institutions, including the Human Rights Council**, turning them into arenas for **political proxy conflicts**.

## Conclusion

The documents and legal analysis presented demonstrate that a **coordinated interventionist campaign by certain foreign states against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran is underway**. This intervention clearly violates the **principle of non-intervention**, a peremptory norm of international law, and entails the **international responsibility of the states involved**. The maintenance of international peace and security depends on respect for national sovereignty. Interventions fuel instability and threaten the peace, not only for the targeted state but for the entire region.

