



High Council for Human  
Rights of the  
Islamic Republic of Iran

## **Major Damages Inflicted Upon Public & Private Properties Following Violent Riots**

**High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran  
(15 October 2022)**

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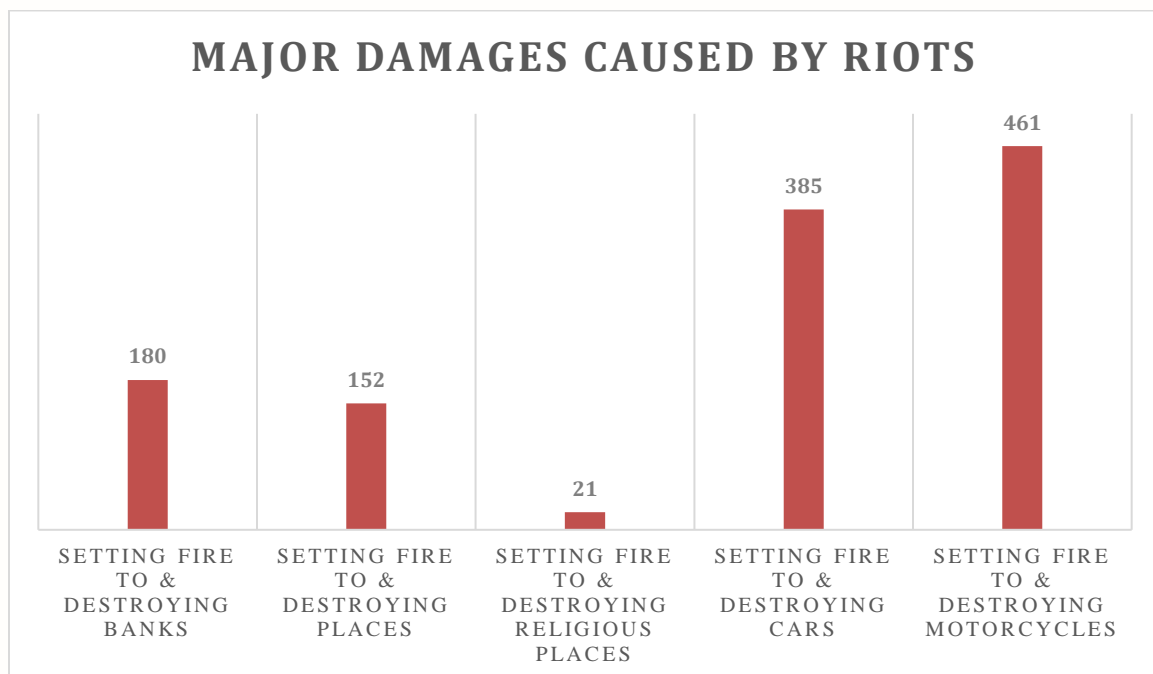
The right to peaceful assembly and association is recognized and guaranteed both in the Constitution and law of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and, those participating therein are protected as long as they do not resort to violence. As stipulated in Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political rights, no restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (*ordre public*), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. It is evident that in case demonstrators brandish *armes blanches* or firearms, disrupt public order and strike public fear, they will be legally responsible for *actus reus* thereof.

Some gatherings that have taken place in different parts of the Country after the death of Mahsa Amini have deviated from the peaceful nature thereof and morphed into violence, riots and vandalism. In the meantime, in a downright violent manner and contrary to international law, the United States and certain European countries started to intervene in the domestic affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran and support the rioters. Other external actors such as terrorist groups, have used all their capacities in order to direct their agents and provoke people to participate in violent riots and provided their support thereto. In a coordinated manner, the foreign-based Persian language networks and TV channels also incited youth and people into violence.

During the riots, certain individuals affiliated to terrorist groups, certain foreign countries and media outlets – in addition to inciting people into violence and providing training thereto so as to brandish combat rifles, *armes blanches* as well as incendiaries – resorted to the most violent actions against public, private

properties, and State-owned places as well as ordinary people and the police. Some examples of these behaviors are: physical attacks towards those who refused to attend the gatherings and accompany the rioters, disrupting the public order, violating the rights of other citizens especially women, creating widespread damage in public and private properties including by creating roadblocks and obstructing police to conduct its duty to maintain public order, and preventing the free and unhindered movement of emergency vehicles such as ambulances and fire engines.

In the course of the violent riots, many public and private properties were set ablaze or looted; some law enforcement officers and ordinary people were also killed or injured by *armes blanches* and firearms brandished by the rioters. Civil administrative centers and public services such as banks, ATMs, patient-carrying ambulances, public transportation, police vehicles, fire engines and religious places – many of which were destroyed and burned – were subject to organized and widespread attacks.



The criminal acts taken by the rioters to inflict significant damage upon public and private property constitute a violation of the right to property, the right to freedom

of movement, the right to safety and security, the right to work, the right to physical and mental health, the right to enjoy public services among other rights. It is obvious that during circumstances of such nature, law enforcement officers are required to implement appropriate legal measures in performing their legal duties assigned thereto so as to maintain and ensure safety and security as well as public order.

It should be noted that international human rights law only protects assemblies that are peaceful, i.e., those which are non-violent. International human rights norms consider the “peacefulness” of an assembly as the defining characteristic for protection under Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Therefore, we must recall that according to international human rights law, the exercise of the right to freedom of peaceful assembly is subject to certain conditions, which are prescribed by law and are deemed necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order, the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.