

# Current Intelligence Report Circular

**CLASSIFICATION: DECLASSIFIED AND APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE**

**Report Topic:** Popular Unrest in Iran

**Production Date:** 05 October 2022

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## Iran's Supreme Leader Blames Unrest on the United States

On 03 OCT, Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, made his first public statement since the death of Mahsa Amini in the custody of the Iranian Guidance Patrol, also known as "morality police." In his statement, he condemned the protests and riots and said they were "planned" and that "these schemes were designed by the U.S.". Khamenei also mentioned that foreign powers did not want to see an independent and strong Iran. These statements come as over 133 people have been killed by security forces in Iran (according to reports from Norway), and as the United States has imposed sanctions on the country's Guidance Patrol. END

### CMCD Note

We assess with high confidence that the Iranian government will continue to blame the protests on claims of foreign intervention – particularly the U.S. and Israel. The Iranian regime has a history of blaming its internal issues on foreign powers and this is highly unlikely to change. In addition to providing a rallying point for pro-government protesters, these claims allow the Iranian regime to target anti-government protesters as potential traitors and allows them to legitimize their violent efforts to crack down on the protests.

### Sources

BBC News, Iran protests: Supreme leader blames unrest on US and Israel

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Politico, Iran's supreme leader breaks silence on protests, blames U.S.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2022/10/03/iran-supreme-leader-protests-us-00059981>

Financial Times, Iran's Ayatollah Khamenei blames US and Israel for street protests

<https://www.ft.com/content/ba83383a-63ed-4a0d-93a4-2e345911b124>

Twitter, Khamenei\_ir

[https://twitter.com/khamenei\\_ir?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor](https://twitter.com/khamenei_ir?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor)