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EU labels Iran's Revolutionary Guard 'terrorist organization'

Tehran has called the move a "PR stunt" by "an actor in severe decline"



Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps personnel, Tehran, September 21, 2024. © Morteza Nikoubazi/NurPhoto via Getty Images

EU foreign ministers have agreed to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a "*terrorist organization*," the bloc's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, announced on Thursday.

Kallas announced the decision in a post on X, calling the move "*decisive*." Earlier on Thursday, the bloc's foreign ministers also voted to sanction 15 individuals – mostly law enforcement officials – and six entities accused of

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"human rights violations" in Iran.

"Repression cannot go unanswered," Kallas stated. *"Any regime that kills thousands of its own people is working toward its own demise."*

EU officials have accused the IRGC and the sanctioned individuals of orchestrating a brutal crackdown on anti-government rioters earlier this month. Tehran claims that legitimate protests were hijacked by American and Israeli agents, who attacked security forces and civilians alike in an attempt to provoke a harsh response and justify US military intervention.

Responding to the designation, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi accused the EU of *"fanning the flames"* of conflict, despite the fact that Europe would be *"massively impacted by an all-out war in our region."* He called the move a *"PR stunt"* and labeled Brussels *"an actor in severe decline."*

The EU designation was initially opposed by several nations, including France, Italy, and Spain. They argued that blacklisting the IRGC – an official branch of the Iranian military – would sever critical diplomatic channels with Tehran.

Kallas dismissed these concerns, telling reporters that *"the diplomatic channels will remain open even after the listing of the Revolutionary Guards."*

Iran will likely respond in kind. In 2023, after the European Parliament passed a non-binding resolution calling for the IRGC's blacklisting, Iran's parliament drafted legislation that would designate the armed forces of all EU member states as terrorist organizations.

The IRGC has also been labeled a terrorist group by the US, Israel, Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. Iran responded to the US designation in 2019 by applying the



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same label to US Central Command (CENTCOM).

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Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said that Tehran is willing to negotiate, but that Iranian forces have *"their fingers on the trigger"* to respond to any US aggression.

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