

## UPDATE: IRAN PROTESTS

When Iran downed a Ukrainian airliner, killing 176 innocent civilians, Democrats [blamed](#) America. Now, as the Iranian people flood the streets and demand an end to the corrupt regime in Tehran, Democrats are refusing to stand with Iranian protesters fighting for freedom.

Just this weekend, Speaker Pelosi downplayed the protests in Iran and would not say whether she supported the protesters:



*GEORGE STEPHANOPOULOS: Do you support those protesters, and would it be a good thing if they brought the regime down?*

*NANCY PELOSI: Well, the regime -- the protesters are -- are protesting, as I understand it, this brand of protesters, about the fact that that plane went down. And many students were on that plane. And these are largely students in the street. I think the Iranians should have not had commercial flights going off when there was --*

*STEPHANOPOULOS: They're calling out the regime for lying. They're saying death to Khomeini as well.*

*PELOSI: Yes. Well, whatever it is.*

*But the fact is this, the -- there were protesters in the streets before against the regime. After the taking out of Soleimani, there were protesters in the street, joined together, as you know, against us. That wasn't good. Taking down this plane is a terrible, terrible tragedy. And they should be held accountable for letting commercial flights go at a time that was so, so dangerous.*

*But there are different reasons why people are in the street. Of course we would love to see the aspirations of the people of Iran realized with a better situation there, but escalating the situation -- unless we've exhausted every other remedy.*

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Democrats are so consumed by their hatred of President Trump that they will not stand with him and support the Iranian people—who are protesting a regime that chants 'Death to America.' In fact, a number of

Democrats even took the step of blaming America for Iran's decision to shoot down a Ukrainian commercial airliner:



Pete Buttigieg   
@PeteButtigieg

Innocent civilians are now dead because they were caught in the middle of an unnecessary and unwanted military tit for tat.

My thoughts are with the families and loved ones of all 176 souls lost aboard this flight.

### Here are the facts about the protests:

- The Iranian people are protesting a corrupt regime that wastes billions on terror adventurism around the world instead of supporting its own citizens.
  - The latest round of protests was triggered by the Islamic Republic finally admitting that it downed a plane filled with innocent civilians, including Iranian nationals. However, the protests themselves are driven by long-time frustration with the regime, and protesters are demanding its fall.
    - [CNBC](#): "They are lying that our enemy is America, our enemy is right here!"
    - [Reuters](#): "Clerics get lost!" "Death to the dictator!"

- [IOI](#): "... Dissidents burning posters of slain general Qassem Soleimani."
- These protests show that the Iranian people will use every opportunity, whether a political or economic crisis, to express their dissatisfaction with the regime.
- This regime habitually chooses to undermine the economic well-being and physical security of the Iranian people and forces them to live under oppressive political conditions.
- Iran's leaders have responded to the latest protests with violence. The protests have so far lasted three days and have spread across Iran.



**Donald J. Trump** ✓  
@realDonaldTrump



**To the leaders of Iran - DO NOT KILL YOUR PROTESTERS. Thousands have already been killed or imprisoned by you, and the World is watching. More importantly, the USA is watching. Turn your internet back on and let reporters roam free! Stop the killing of your great Iranian people!**

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- President Trump is standing with the people of Iran against their murderous regime.
  - Former NSC official Rich Goldberg: "The beauty of @realDonaldTrump policy is that we are in the driver's seat, not #Iran. The pressure on regime is at extreme levels. No reason to let them off the hook while people are in the streets."
  - Columnist Eli Lake: "This counts as a new demand. That's a good thing by the way. It's the first time a US president has said Iran's treatment of its own people will affect the outcome of a future negotiation."
- Iran was rocked by intense protests from November to December, when frustrated Iranians called for an end to the regime.
  - These protests were sparked by a gas price hike but, again, were about broader frustration.
  - The regime responded by cracking down against the protesters, with [one estimate](#) putting the death toll at 1,500.

