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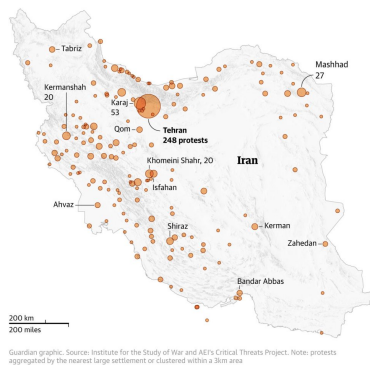


Iran

Beyond the Headlines: Why Iran's Protest Wave Can't Be Reduced to One Name

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Nationwide protests, 29 Dec 2025 to 13 Jan 2026



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As Iran's new wave of nationwide protests enters its 12th day [1]—and as reports of a widespread internet blackout since last night circulate—an old debate has returned to the center of political discussion with new speed: are “calls to action” from political figures driving the streets, or are they mainly an attempt to ride a movement that is already happening?

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[1] 28 December 2025 to 12 January 2026, see the map showing the cities where protests are taking place