

Josep Borrell Fontelles  
High representative on Foreign Affairs  
European Commission  
Rue de la Loi 200  
1049 Bruxelles

Brussels  
1. December 2022

Dear Commissioner Borrell,

The news coming out of Qatar of peaceful Iranian protesters being physically attacked<sup>1</sup> by thugs loyal to the regime in Tehran are shocking. Even more so when families with children have also been there<sup>2</sup>.

In combination with the news of at least one European reporter being detained by Qatari police for filming and reporting on the attacks<sup>3</sup>, it shows a shocking attitude from the authorities in Qatar.

This is further exacerbated by the allegations<sup>4</sup> that the authorities in Qatar have been working actively with the regime in Tehran against peaceful Iranian protesters and media critical of the government.

It is clear, that Qatar is not protecting the football fans, is failing on the promises made on the right to report, and is quite possible working directly with a reprehensive regime on quelling civil society voices. This is unacceptable.

We therefore write to urge you to take immediate action. We request that you summon the Head of Qatar's Mission to the EU for a meeting, and in that meeting convey our deepest concerns and demand assurance that the shameful Qatari behaviour on these issues will cease immediately.

It should at the same time be made clear that the continuation of any such behaviour could and should have direct consequences for Qatar's cooperation with the European Union.

Looking forward to your swift reply,

Kind regards

Nikolaj Villumsen, Member of the European Parliament for Denmark

---

<sup>1</sup> See <https://mobile.twitter.com/RasmusTantholdt/status/1597728226079821825>

<sup>2</sup> <https://mobile.twitter.com/RasmusTantholdt/status/1597732197875994625>

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.independent.co.uk/sport/football/news/rasmus-tantholdt-detained-qatar-police-b2235829.html>

<sup>4</sup> See for instance <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202211279876>