Tehran 3 October
Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei claimed that nationwide anti-government protests “were planned by America, the Zionist regime [i.e., Israel] and their acolytes. Their main problem is with a strong and independent Iran and the country’s progress… If it were not for the young girl [whose death while in police custody sparked the unrest], they would have invented another excuse to create insecurity and trigger riots in the country”.

Washington 3 October
President Biden said he was “gravely concerned about reports of the intensifying violent crackdown on peaceful protestors in Iran… the U.S. stands with Iranian women and all the citizens who are inspiring the world with their bravery”. He also indicated that Washington would “be imposing further costs on perpetrators of violence against peaceful protestors”. The same day, a White House spokesperson remarked: “As long as we believe pursuing JCPOA talks is in the U.S. national security interest, we will do so… At the same time, we will continue to use other tools to address other problems with Iran’s behaviour, as we have”.

Yemen/Riyadh 2 October
With Yemen’s six-month truce up for renewal, the UN Special Envoy announced that an extension had not yet been reached and urged all sides “to fulfill their obligation to the Yemeni people to pursue every avenue for peace… I will continue my relentless efforts to engage with the parties to quickly reach an agreement on a way forward”. The following day, President Raisi spoke to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and stated that “Iran has always emphasised on lifting the blockade and establishing a ceasefire and trying to resolve the crisis through Yemeni-Yemeni dialogues and understanding without foreign interference in this country”.

Tehran/Washington 1 October
The UN Secretary-General announced that “our former colleague Baquer Namazi has been permitted to leave Iran for medical treatment abroad… Baquer Namazi’s son, Siamak Namazi, has been released from detention”. The State Department said it was “deeply gratified” by the news regarding the two U.S. nationals, adding: “Our efforts are far from over. We remain committed and determined to securing the freedom of all Americans unjustly detained in Iran and elsewhere”.