
HOW THE EU'S INTERNAL RESISTANCE ON IRAN FINALLY CRACKED

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The EUs move to designate Irans feared paramilitary force as a terrorist organization was the product of a recalculation by several governments, in which the need to respond to Tehrans brutal crackdown outweighed the diplomatic risks.

For weeks, a group of influential EU capitals — led by France and, until recently, Italy and Spain — warned that a terror listing would close off what little diplomatic leverage Europe still had with Iran, risking reprisals against European nationals and complicating nuclear talks.

That argument began to unravel as the regimes internet blackout lifted and video footage circulated of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps violence against protesters. By Wednesday afternoon, the capitals championing the designation, among them Berlin, had managed to peel away Italy and Spain from France — with Paris loath to be out on its own.

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