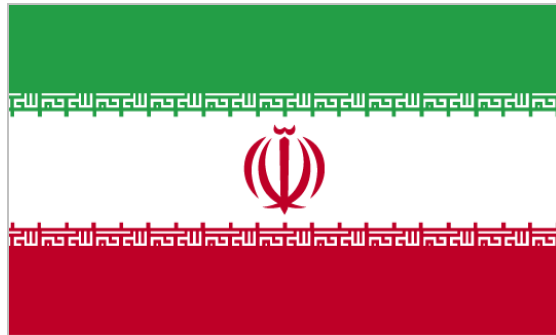


Iran



The Iranian national flag has three equal horizontal bands of green (on top), white (in the middle), and red (on bottom). The colors refer to Islam, peace, and courage (valor), respectively. Originally, Iran's Lion and Sun emblem were displayed on the flag, beginning as early as the 15th century. However, after the 1979 revolution, the national flag was altered and the central emblem now is the national emblem of Iran, a stylized representation of the word Allah in the shape of a tulip. The tulip is a symbol of martyrdom. It also resembles the word "Allah" with a sword in the middle and two crescents on each side. "Allah Akbar" (God is Great), written in Arabic script, repeats eleven times along the bottom edge of the green band and eleven times along the top edge of the red band. These 22 repetitions recall that the revolution took place on 22 Bahman in the Iranian solar calendar.