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Obstacles to the Realization of the Civil Right to Protest Against Public Law Norms from the Perspective of Deliberative Democracy

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1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The introduction mentions the legal reaction to civil protests but lacks specific examples from Iran's legal context. Adding a brief mention of relevant legal cases or policies in Iran would provide concrete grounding.

The section stating "Public law norms, due to their non-suspendable nature, are given particular attention..." should be supported with references to international frameworks for comparison, such as the UN or European human rights frameworks.

The statement "adjustments in the formulation and drafting of regulations and laws..." would benefit from an additional explanation of how these adjustments have historically evolved in the Iranian context.

The methodology should describe how data related to legal texts and public opinion were analyzed. Were any qualitative content analysis methods applied?

While ethical standards are mentioned in a separate section, it would be helpful to clarify within the methodology how ethical challenges in analyzing public protests were addressed.

The section lacks clear subheadings to differentiate key obstacles such as "Legal Barriers," "Political Resistance," and "Societal Perceptions." Structuring the discussion under these subcategories would enhance readability.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

The section cites Habermas extensively but could benefit from a more concise definition upfront before delving into his contributions, ensuring clarity for non-specialist readers.

Consider briefly mentioning alternative frameworks to deliberative democracy that have been used to address civil protest issues globally, for instance, participatory democracy.

The discussion of deliberative democracy lacks a clear articulation of how it aligns with or contradicts Iran's legal and cultural framework. Providing more context-specific applications will strengthen the argument.

The article mentions a descriptive-analytical method but does not clarify how data were collected. If secondary data sources were used, specify their nature and reliability.

The statement "Public law rules should not be formulated in a way that prevents the people from participating..." should be accompanied by specific examples of Iranian laws that have hindered or facilitated citizen participation.

The discussion primarily focuses on the Iranian context but would benefit from comparisons with other Middle Eastern countries to highlight commonalities and unique challenges.

The section discussing solutions could be expanded with actionable steps for policymakers rather than general recommendations. For example, suggest mechanisms to enhance public consultation in legislative processes.

Authors revised the manuscript and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor's decision: Accepted.

Editor in Chief's decision: Accepted.