

A Network of

27

state agencies

suppresses Iranian women

by enforcing

the mandatory Hijab

NCRI Women's Committee

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FOREWORD

Repression at home and export of terrorism and fundamentalism abroad are the two prongs of the strategy adopted by the misogynist and medieval regime ruling Iran to preserve its rule. Iranian women have always been the first victims of domestic repression under the pretext of enforcing the mandatory Hijab.

Contrary to the mullahs' expectations, Iranian women have refused to accept this imposition and defied the regime's intention to deprive them of the right to choose their own clothing, a systematic and prevalent trend which has turned into a political and security issue for the regime.

That is why the first task of various government bodies is to suppress women over the form of clothing. This was first revealed in December 2015 by Hossein Ashtari, the commander-in-chief of the State Security Force, that «26 government agencies are responsible for the issue of Hijab and Chastity.»

Enforcing the mandatory hijab, a top priority of government agencies

The issue of the compulsory veil has taken on political and national security significance over the past 40 years, and turned into one of the regime's top priorities. The misogynist regime in Iran has developed various mechanisms to enforce the mandatory Hijab, and the organization set up for this task has widely expanded through the years.

On December 4, 2005, the regime's Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution passed a law entitled, «Law on the Development of Executive Procedures for Hijab and Chastity» and defined the responsibility of enforcing the mandatory hijab for at least 26 government agencies. The law laid emphasis on “the priority of the issue of ‘Hijab and Chastity’ in the plans and programs of the regime's executive bodies.”

The Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution also worked out another solution. “Reviving the tradition of Promotion of Virtue and Prohibition of Vice with regards to Hijab and Chastity» was the council's means to involve unofficial forces and reactionary elements to harass women in the streets. This policy led to organized violence in September 2014, such as acid attacks and stabbings of women by government-backed gangs.

In September 2019, the supreme cultural council approved a document entitled «Supplementary Collection.» Under the new plan, the number of official government agencies responsible for enforcing the mandatory Hijab was increased from 26 to 27, which includes 10 ministries.

All the above said agencies and the bodies not mentioned involved in the suppression of women work in accordance with the policies of the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution, which is chaired by the mullahs' President, Hassan Rouhani.



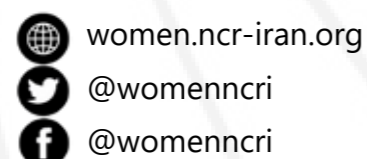
A network of 27 state agencies suppresses Iranian women by enforcing the mandatory Hijab

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Duties of the 27 State Agencies depriving women of their free choice of clothing

According to the «Supplementary Collection» approved by the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution, the duties of the 27 official state agencies in imposing the mandatory hijab on Iranian women are as follows.¹

1 Ministry of Health and Medical Education

The Ministry of Health and Medical Education controls women in hospitals and medical centers. "Protecting the moral privacy of patients" is one of the tasks of this body, which means none but monitoring female physicians and nurses during their care and treatment of male patients.

2 Ministry of Science, Research and Technology

The Ministry of Science, Research and Technology monitors and harasses female professors and students in dormitories of educational centers and universities to enforce their so-called «Hijab and Chastity.» In addition, the ministry also monitors the students' mothers with regards to their observance of the compulsory dress code. In the first week of May 2019, for example, students of the University of Tehran saw the heavy presence of the paramilitary Bassij agents on campus. Their task was to terrorize female students who flouted the rule of the mandatory hijab. On May 13, 2019, hundreds of students protested. The response of Bassij forces to them was beating.²

3 Ministry of Education

Under the pretext of cultural education, the Ministry of Education targets female schoolgirls to teach them about the regime's misogynistic culture.

These teachings, which are implemented by coercion and humiliation, are a cause of constant psychological torture of the innocent schoolgirls in Iran.

On May 6, 2018, at a girls' primary school in the southern city of Abadan, the deputy director of the school cut the hair of a primary school girl with scissors because she had failed to stick her lock of hair underneath her scarf. The girl, who had asthma, suffered a respiratory attack and was taken to hospital.³

In December 2017, at a girls' school in Islamabad, Urmia, the school's principal and supervisor went to the school yard while accompanied by several state security forces. They cut with scissors each girls' hair that had come out of the headscarf.⁴

A NETWORK OF 27 STATE AGENCIES SUPPRESSES IRANIAN WOMEN BY ENFORCING THE MANDATORY HIJAB

1. Ministry of Health and Medical Education

Suppresses women on the streets round the clock

2. Ministry of Science, Research and Technology

Monitors female professors and students

3. Ministry of Education

Harasses girl children under the pretext of teaching Islamic culture

4. Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance

Promotes and encourages women to give in to the mullahs' dress code

5. Islamic Development Organization

Promotes the mullahs' culture through religious societies

6. Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting

Produces and broadcasts misogynistic programs

7. Bassij Organization

Uses various resources to promote Hijab, deals with women in the streets

8. Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization

Controls women applying for pilgrimage

9. Islamic Culture and Relations Organization

Monitors individuals and groups traveling on scientific, cultural, and artistic projects

10. Headquarters for promoting virtue and prohibiting vice

Encourages and lauds managers and celebrities who contribute to the enforcement of the mandatory Hijab

11. The Centre for the Management of the Islamic Seminaries of Qom

Recruits young people to promote Hijab in society

12. Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization

Funds efforts to enforce the compulsory Hijab using the pretext of charity and cultural endowments

13. Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade

Prevents orders and registration of goods contradicting the dress code

14. Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization

Clamps down on women in touristic and cultural centers

15. The State Security Force

Daily harassment and suppression against women on the streets

16. The Intelligence Ministry

Discovering women and youth not submitting to the regime's policies

17. The Ministry of Economy and Finance

Financial support for commercial networks producing so-called Islamic clothing

18. The Ministry of Interior

Organizing and equipping state-run institutions imposing the veil

19. Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization

Depriving women of employment under the pretext of hijab and chastity

20. Planning and Budget Organization

Observing the consumption of budget allocated to promote the compulsory veil by the relevant agencies

21. The Organization of Free Trade, Industry and Economic Zones

Preventing the adoption of regulations and contracting the dress code

22. Center of Women and Family Affairs

Imposing the compulsory veil onto harmed women and holding meetings, exhibitions, and workshops with the aim of promoting misogynist policies

23. Ministry of Sport and Youth

Financing the so-called hijab and chastity plans by extortion from people - Eliminating so called "mal-veiled" athletes

24. Municipalities

Clamping down on women through involving in arrest under the pretext of purifying public places

25. Khomeini Relief Foundation

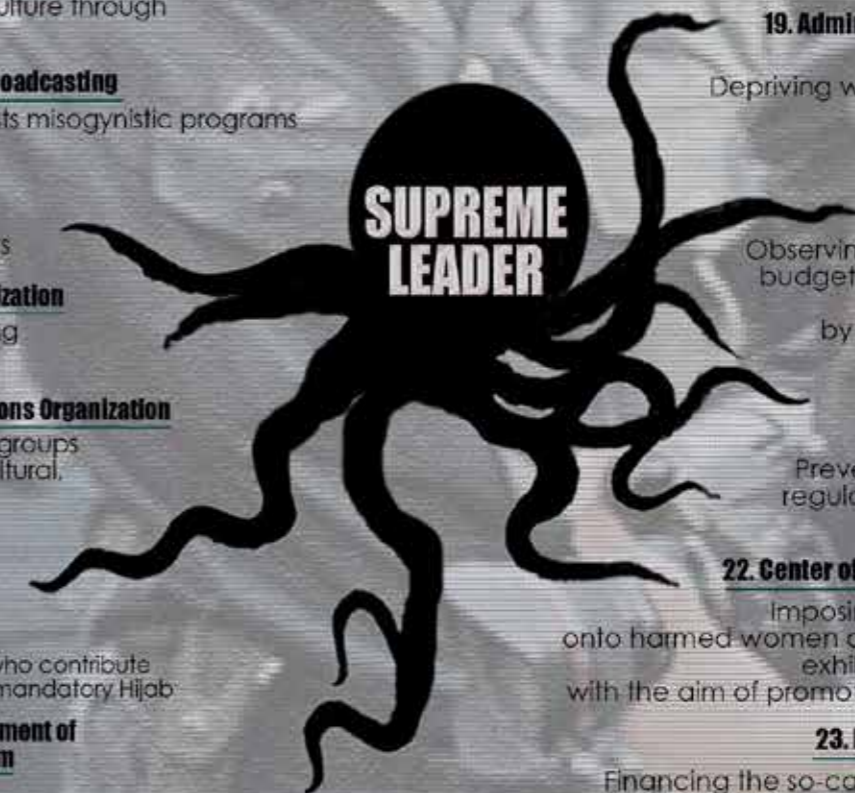
Applying mullahs' culture on deprived and homeless women under the cover of financial aid

26. Welfare Organization

Controlling kindergartens and counseling centers

27. Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs

Funding advertisement of compulsory veil from government sources



4 Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance is an organization seeks to attract women and youth to the manifestations and appearances of the regime; it uses tricks such as computer games or advertising on domestic brands to advance its goals.

5 Islamic Development Organization

The task of the Islamic Development (of Propaganda) Organization is to promote the regime's fundamentalist ideals through mosques and religious institutions. It also exploits elite students or others who excel in the regime's "chastity" indicators to promote the regime's culture and role models.

6 Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting

The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting is tasked with monitoring of all propaganda that contradict the regime's intentions with regards to the mandatory Hijab. It monitors the advertisements of goods and products on satellite networks and cyberspace, and reports any contradictions with the regime's official models to the relevant authorities.

In addition, the organization continuously promotes the regime's misogynistic culture through production and broadcast of interviews, advertisements, film serials and outreach programs.

7 Bassij Organization

In accordance with its mandates set forth in the "Supplementary Collection," the Bassij Organization shall produce "cultural content for the purpose of promoting hijab in real and cyber space."

On July 8, 2018, Minoo Aslani, the head of the Women's Bassij, announced the formation of "Hijab and Chastity Headquarters" in 31 provinces. Around the same time, some 50,000 women were stopped in Districts 2 and 5 of Tehran and given warnings for not properly covering their hair.

Omol-Sadat Rakhshandeh, in charge of the women's Bassij in the IRGC Karbala Corps in Mazandaran, also announced on July 8, 2018 that during the week of "Hijab and Chastity," they would carry out more than 2,000 special programs to promote the culture of compulsory hijab. In addition, stations will be set up on the beaches as well as in parks and public places to remind women of observing the official dress code.⁵

8 Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization

The Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization must monitor and pressure women who apply for pilgrimage to holy places using the pretext of Hijab and Chastity.

9 Organization of Islamic Culture and Relations

The Organization of Islamic Culture and Relations monitors individuals as well as scientific, cultural and artistic groups being sent abroad and whether they observe the mandatory Hijab while on travel.

10 Headquarters for Promoting Virtue and Prohibiting Vice

The Headquarters for Promoting Virtue and Prohibiting Vice institutionalizes suppression of women by encouraging and praising managers, government employees and famous personalities who help advance the policy of enforcing the compulsory veil.

11 Management Centre of the Islamic Seminaries of Qom

The Centre for the Management of the Islamic Seminaries of Qom must recruit young people in society and in the cyberspace. The center also trains men and women as missionaries to carry out the regime's suppressive plans against women.

12 Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization

The Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization funds mandatory hijab projects through activities such as donations and cultural endowments. It also promotes the so-called hijab culture in the form of publications, video clips, creating software and web sites in cyberspace.

13 Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade

The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade exerts tight control on businesses and unions, preventing the registration of goods which contradict the clerical regime's policies with regards to clothing, toys and stationery.

14 Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization

The organization of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism promotes the compulsory veil in the realm of tourism, and in tourism services and cultural centers.

15 The State Security Force

The State Security Force (SSF) acts as the regime's iron fist and exerts daily pressure on women.

In May 2015, the State Security Force was reinforced by 7,000 plain clothes agents in Tehran alone. In November 2015, Saeed Montazer Al-Mahdi, the social deputy for the State Security Force, announced that the number of guidance patrols had increased 40 folds.

In 2016, Iranian women received 64,000 warnings related to the observance of the official dress code. During the same period, more than 1,262 women were summoned to the moral security section of the police. At least 215 vehicles were confiscated and 500 individuals suspected of removing the veil were dealt with.⁶

In June 2016, only in Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari province, 362 businesses were warned and 126 shops were closed for failing to observe the hijab of their mannequins in the showcases.⁷ On September 29, 2016, SSF Commander-in-Chief Hossein Ashtari told a national gathering of prosecutors that over 2000 women were arrested every day in Tehran and some other provinces for hijab-related issues.⁸ In the first six months of 2017, over 25,000 drivers were fined in Isfahan for having tinted windows which could shield women who remove their veil inside the car.⁹

In February 2018, the State Security Force announced: "Encouraging people not to wear the hijab is punishable by one to ten years in prison and cannot be commuted to alternative punishment."¹⁰



In the spring of 2019, the State Security Force launched a plan called "Observer 1." According to this plan, all vehicles in which women did not observe the compulsory hijab received text messages to report in to one of SSF centers to pay fines. By June 2019, Iranian drivers had received 300,000 such text messages. 150,000 people were summoned to the SSF headquarters and forced to pledge in writing to comply with hijab rules.¹¹ According to the same plan, 64 women were sued in Gilan Province, alone.¹² In June 2019, the SSF announced that women who fail to observe compulsory hijab guidelines are banned from traveling by plane.¹³ The regime's next plan to harass women was announced in September 2019.

During this project, called "Observer 2," women were harassed in shopping malls, shops and even in apartment complexes. 11 major shopping malls in Tehran were monitored.¹⁴ The presence of any piece of clothing that did not comply with the regime's coercive dress code became an excuse for a disciplinary action and the closure of the shop. Observer 1 and 2 plans continued in 2020. In Arak, two businesses were shut down. Shut-down orders were issued for 49 other businesses. Fifty-five business owners were forced to write pledges that they will not disregard the hijab rules again and 99 other businesses were put on notice.¹⁵ Summer is a time to harass women in Iran. Hossein Hassanpour, deputy

coordinator of the SSF in Gilan Province, said: "194 vehicles and motorized units will be dispatched to the coastal and resort areas from across the province... The police's mandate is to cooperate with other agencies to keep the beaches and resorts clean and morally fit within our own moral standards."¹⁶

16 Intelligence Ministry

The Ministry of Intelligence traces and locates women and youths who defy the regime's repressive policies. Monitoring the activities and positions of other countries regarding the enforcement of the compulsory veil in Iran and expanding the intelligence network by using all government employees are among the duties of this ministry.

17 Ministry of Economy and Finance

The Ministry of Economy and Finance supports commercial networks operating to advance the enforcement of the compulsory hijab and provides them banking facilities to enable them to continue their work.

18 Interior Ministry

The Ministry of Interior organizes and equips government institutions to promote the practice of hijab. In May 2017, the Ministry of Interior, together with the Central Headquarters for the Protection of Public Security in the Sphere of Hijab and Chastity, issued a calendar to governorates throughout Iran, informing them of a new round of repressive inspections during the month of Ramadan to examine the condition of their employees' compliance with the official compulsory dress code. Public and private hospitals were among the entities on their monitor list.¹⁷

19 Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization

The Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization has a duty to deprive women of employment under the pretext of "Hijab and Chastity."

20 Planning and Budget Organization

The Planning and Budget Organization oversees government institutions and agencies in terms of spending government funds to promote hijab projects.

21 Organization of Free Trade, Industry and Economic Zones

The Free Trade, Industry and Economic Zones Organization has the authority to prevent the adoption of regulations, plans and programs that are inconsistent with the rules on Hijab and Chastity. The organization prevents any import, production, distribution and supply of goods and products that are in conflict with the misogynistic policies of the mullahs.

22 Directorate of Women and Family Affairs

In contrast to the notion associated with its name, the Directorate of Women and Family Affairs enforces the mandatory hijab on women in need. The directorate promotes the regime's misogynistic goals in the field of compulsory hijab through meetings, exhibitions and workshops entitled as "Women's affairs."

Ministry of Sports and Youth vs. Iran's Youth and Athletes

Renowned female Iranian athletes are set aside from sports events



Dorsa Derakhshani, the sixth-ranked chess player in the world; Shiva Amini, a member of the national team and a player in the Premier Futsal League; and Maral Mardani, a member of judo national team, are among the female athletes deprived from competitions for failing to observe Hijab rules.

In January 2019, Kimia Alizadeh, a world-class taekwondo fighter; Shohreh Bayat, a world chess referee; and Mitra Hejazipour, the Iranian chess champion; left Iran to escape misogynistic rules and repression of women.

23 Ministry of Sports and Youth

The Ministry of Sports and Youth is tasked with extorting money from the people for use in the so-called "hijab and chastity plans."

The ministry also expels or restricts female athletes while the compulsory dress code is a serious obstacle to the participation of Iranian women in various sports.

In February 2017, Dorsa Derakhshani, a member of Iran's national chess team who was awarded the title, Woman Grandmaster and International Master in 2016, was banned from participating in competitions because she did not wear the compulsory veil at the Gibraltar games.

In May 2017, Iran's Football Federation deprived Shiva Amini, a member of the Women's Futsal National Team, from playing futsal for not wearing the compulsory veil during a friendly match abroad.¹⁸

In January 2018, 10-year-old gymnastics champion Kiana Abdipour was summoned to the Gymnastics Federation's Disciplinary Committee after pictures of her without the compulsory veil during a training tour in Armenia surfaced online. She came on the verge of being banned from participating in tournaments.¹⁹

In October 2018, Maral Mardani, an Iranian judo practitioner of the 78 weight class, was eliminated from the main Olympic games in Argentina because she could not wear the original judo uniform and go without covering her hair.²⁰

In June 2019, during a women's football game in Shiraz, central Iran, agents of the Security Service (Herast) entered the players' locker-room and insulted and physically attacked the team players and coach.²¹

In January 2020, three women athletes left Iran due to the compulsory hijab and the suppression of women. Olympic medalist Kimia Alizadeh, a Taekwondo athlete, took refuge in

Germany and wrote in an Instagram post that “I am one of the millions of oppressed women in Iran.”

Shohreh Bayat, a 32-year-old international chess referee, who took part in chess competitions without the mandatory veil, said that she would only return to Iran if she received “something to ensure I will be safe if I go back.”

Chess champion Mitra Hejazipour was expelled from the National Chess Team on January 2, 2020 by Iran’s Chess Federation for removing her hijab during the World Chess Championship.

24 Municipalities

Municipalities across Iran are tasked with suppression and complicity in the arrest of women and young Iranians under the pretext of “creating a healthy environment” in beaches and recreational resorts.

25 Khomeini Relief Foundation

The Khomeini Relief Foundation steals money from Iranians and implements the “Plan to Promote Hijab and Chastity” on women who are the sole providers of their family and women who have no guardians or have inadequate guardians.

26 Welfare Organization

The Welfare Organization controls kindergartens, consultation centers and other centers related to the organization.

In July 2016, plans for gender segregation were even implemented for children under the age of seven. The Social Assistant Head of Tehran Province said that “no kindergarten had a right to have mixed gender swimming pools.”

“If such a transgression is carried out, the kindergarten will be shut down,” Ibrahim Ghafari stressed.²²

Gender segregation was not limited to swimming pools in kindergartens. Habbibollah Nesari, the Deputy Commander of the SSF Special Forces called the mingling of girls and boys in kindergartens “animosity with religion.”²³ A few days before that, Habbibollah Massoudi Farid, a Welfare official, said that if mixed gender swimming pools were proven to exist in kindergartens, the issue would be quickly dealt with.²⁴

27 Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs

The Foundation of Martyrs and Veterans Affairs uses government funds on cultural activities to promote the mandatory hijab.

27 Organizations Are Not Enough

Although the above-mentioned 27 organizations are mentioned in the document approved by the Supreme Council for Cultural Revolution, this is not all there is to the regime's comprehensive efforts to impose the mandatory hijab. Since the obligatory veil is institutionalized as an official law in Iran, other organizations and agencies are inevitably involved.

Ministry of Justice

In July 2019, Esmail Akbari, one of the directors of the Justice Department of Fars Province announced that detainees accused of hijab related charges were forced to participate in eight-hour educational classes.²⁵

Political prisoners are also pressured under the pretext of having violated the rules of hijab.²⁶

The Revolutionary Guard Corps

In November 2014, the Headquarters for Promoting Virtue and Prohibiting Vice started training courses for their new members with the help of Bassij forces and the Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The new members were given special certificates after the completion of their training.²⁷

It is worth mentioning that the main role of the IRGC is to preserve the rule of the clerical regime.

On June 24, 2019, Gholami, one of the directors of the Headquarters



**A religious scholar:
“Despite all the various
efforts to emphasize
(the importance of Hijab),
we have not been able
to achieve our goals
in fighting violations
of Hijab.”**



for Promoting Virtue and Prohibiting Vice in the Khorasan Razavi Province in northeastern Iran, announced the formation of new repressive divisions to enforce the compulsory veil. He said that over 8,000 agents of the new divisions had spread across 12 cities of the province to initiate their repressive activities. Gholami said that the new divisions would be organized in all cities of the province by the end of the year.²⁸ The Revolutionary Guard Corps has also focused its attention on models and has arrested a considerable number of people in this field. In September 2016, 24 models were arrested in the northeastern city of Mashhad, southeastern city of

Zahedan, and Markazi Province, in central Iran. Fifty-eight others were summoned to court while over 20 photography studios and ateliers were shut down.²⁹ In May 2019, the organization had 2000 groups dedicated to enforcing the mandatory hijab on women just in the northern province of Gilan. Mohammad Abdollahpour, the commander of Gilan’s IRGC Quds Force, announced that they had dealt with over 28,000 cases of “improper veiling” in that year. The IRGC commander also announced that about 22,000 agents from the Bassij and IRGC, patrol neighborhoods on a weekly basis in Gilan province.³⁰

The Parliamentary Women and Family Committee to Promote Virtue and Prevent Vice

On June 20, 2016, the official IRNA News Agency reported the formation of a new committee in the mullahs’ parliament called the Women and Family Committee to Promote Virtue and Prohibit Vice.

301 institutes for the Hijab and Chastity

Mohsen Doaii, the Secretary General of the Hijab and Chastity Front, said that “over 301 active chastity and hijab institutes were operating in the country with various capacities.” “This group consists of institutions and cultural activists that have been

formed in a coherent structure to organize matters related to chastity and the hijab,” he added.³¹

Sustained promotion of suppression against women

In addition to the official state agencies, senior regime officials have expressly and repeatedly underscored the need for suppressing women. The mullahs’ Supreme Leader, Ali Khamenei has said: “Gender equality is one of those completely wrong western ideas.”³² Khamenei: “Diversionary conversations about the pros and cons of hijab have no place in the Islamic Republic. You see the underlying current of promoting vice - not only improper veiling - in the society, and they are injecting this in society. New instruments like cyberspace and others are helping create such an atmosphere.”³³ Zahra Ayatollahi, among Khamenei’s representative’s in universities, says: “We do not believe in gender equality; gender segregation has value and merit.”³⁴

The Friday prayer leader of Isfahan said that if women who do not comply with the regime’s compulsory veiling guidelines are not arrested, this would be tantamount to “treason.”³⁵ The interim Friday prayer leader of Ahvaz announced that enforcement teams, comprising of a judge, have been stationed in town squares and various streets in order to flog and lash women in public if they do not comply with verbal warnings about their improper Hijab.³⁶ Ahmad Alamolhoda, the Friday prayer leader of Mashhad and Khamenei’s representative in Khorasan Province, has said that improper-veiling is worse than financial corruption or embezzlement.³⁷

THE FINAL WORD

There are countless other facts and examples related to the suppression of women under the pretext of what the regime deems as proper veiling, virtue or chastity. Topics like threats and harassment against women for riding bicycles or motor bikes, for example, cannot be fairly treated here so we will address them in another report.

Despite all these injustices and suppression, the regime's officials have on numerous occasions confessed that Iranian women have not succumbed to pressure and instead want to be free.

In July 2018, the regime's parliamentary research center said in a report entitled "the contributing factors for implementing veiling policies and the available options": "The sharia form of veiling (the black head-to-toe chador) is deemed as virtuous for only about 35 percent of Iranian women. Nearly 70 percent of women do not believe in hijab or veiling." The report admits the fact that such veiling can only be implemented through coercion and force.

According to the same parliamentary report, more than 85 percent of women who the regime condemns for "improper veiling" do not attribute any virtue to the chador and do not accept any state intervention regarding veiling or clothing. Educated young people in large urban areas display the highest level of resistance against compulsory veiling.³⁸

Moreover, junior and senior officials of the regime from both factions have on various occasions confessed to the theocracy's defeat in this area. One of the regime's senior religious "sources of emulation," Jafar Sobhani, met the commander of the State Security Force, Hossein Ashtari, on October 8, 2017. He praised the suppressive security measures of the SSF but added, "In recent years, we have not been able to get anywhere with respect to improper veiling, despite various warnings."

The head of the so-called "promotion of virtue" headquarters, Jalil Mohebbi, admitted to resistance on the part of women as well as their disregard for the regime's suppressive threats and said: "I told a

woman, 'miss, put your veil on.' She replied: 'I won't put my veil on, and there is not a damn thing you can do about it.' And I really couldn't do a damn thing about it because there were no police officers in the area to inform."⁴⁰

A former member of the mullahs' parliament, Parvaneh Salahshouri, made similar statements in October 2017. She said: "We have not only failed to induce a favorable belief in young people regarding the hijab, but we have actually pushed them away from it." She added: "We only worked on the facade of Islam and were deceitful... Hijab was from the beginning introduced as a political, not a cultural, matter... Are the ethics of refusing to lie, refusing to be deceitful, or dozens of other examples, not attributes of Islam? So, why has lying become so prevalent in the country?"

She pointed to the network of state institutions and so-called "cultural" entities tasked with enforcing the mandatory Hijab on women, and asked: "The question is, with the budgets at their disposal, why have these entities not been able to educate people to act as young Muslims? For example, the (religious seminary) Hawza has access to millions of dollars, but why has it not been successful in this regard? Why have propaganda organs that have access to hefty budgets failed in enforcing the veil?"⁴¹

It is clear that such confessions, particularly at a time when popular uprisings --seeking regime change in Iran-- are on the rise, demonstrate the officials' fear and trepidation. They run parallel to the clerical regime's array of statements regarding the vast potential of Iranian women and the Iranian people, who have reached an explosive state after four decades of brutal suppression and the most inhumane forms of pressure.

Having charted a history of 40 years of resistance led by female activists and PMOI/MEK members --tens of thousands of whom were tortured or murdered by the regime⁴²-- the brave women of Iran will overthrow the entire regime and all its corrupt factions.

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