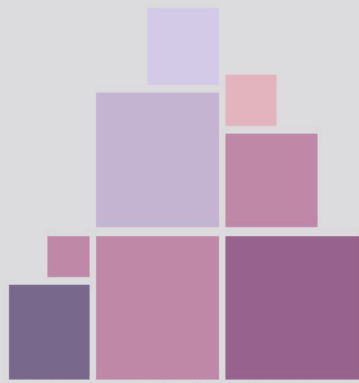


ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Women's Committee
The National Council of
Resistance of Iran





Annual Report 2022

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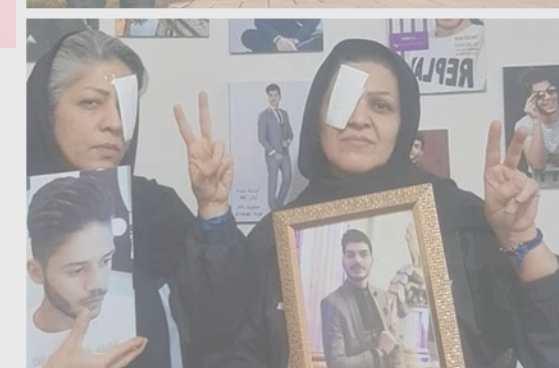
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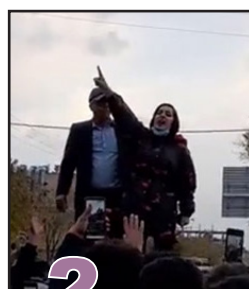


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Table of Contents



Women, the Force for Change

- 2 Posing an existential threat to the Iranian regime
- 4 Teachers, a constant voice of defiance
- 8 The Teachers' Ranking Plan
- 10 Women join the farmers' protests in Isfahan
- 12 Water protests in Shahrekord and Khuzestan
- 14 Mothers of November 2019 martyrs
- 15 Resistance Units, Boycott of sham presidential elections



Executions of Women in Iran

- 16 The shocking rise in the executions of women
- 17 Ebrahim Ra'isi oversees surge in executions
- 18 Who are the women who receive the death penalty?
- 20 Three emblematic cases
- 21 Names of women executed in Iran since January 2021



The Price of Freedom

- 22 Conditions of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of Conscience



Violence Against Women

- 34 Femicides, honor killings
- 40 Child Marriage, the Devastating End of Childhood
- 43 The lack of will to adopt the VAW bill
- 44 Enforcing the mandatory Hijab



Disempowerment of Women in Iran

- 46 Disempowerment of women in Iran
- 48 Common malnutrition
- 49 The housing crisis and its effects on women
- 50 Miserable living conditions
- 50 Female workers
- 52 Nurses
- 54 Women heads of households
- 56 The Iranian regime's misogynous measures
- 58 Poverty behind widespread social harms, suicides

Foreword

The recent beheading of Mona Heydari, a child bride, shocked the world. The heartless murder of this 17-year-old mother by her husband was the culmination of an incessant wave of honor killings and femicides in Iran over the past few years. The tragic incident failed to bring any sense of urgency to the mullahs' parliament for the long overdue passage of the bill on violence against women. No surprise that the regime's supreme leader and officials did not utter even a word to condemn the beastly murder. Since the root cause of these inhuman and misogynistic crimes lies within the clerical regime, which has institutionalized and promoted the savagery throughout the years. The past year also saw a marked surge in the executions of women under Ebrahim Raisi. The executions of seven women in the span of just one month set a new record for this mass murderer and henchman of the 1988 massacre. The Iranian regime did not take any action to benefit or empower women. Instead, they passed bills and took steps, which served their policy of marginalizing women and eliminating their few remaining rights. However, there is a bright side to all these bleak realities. The brave, resilient, and defiant women of Iran did not succumb to the misery of life under the mullahs' religious fascism. In contrast to the mullahs' wish to isolate them at home and keep them busy with raising children, Iranian women took to the streets at every opportunity and raised their voice

against the clerical regime's oppression. They even took their children with them to round-the-clock sit-ins in the streets. Mothers whose children were killed by security forces during the uprisings have been outspoken all along, seeking justice for their loved ones, fearing no arrest, imprisonment, or torture. As opposed to the institutionalized discrimination, that deprives them of political participation and decision-making, Iranian women took the lead in virtually every protest, strike, and demonstration to play their role in deciding their country's fate. They formed their Resistance Units and spearheaded the uprisings. Their role is instrumental in breaking the chains of repression. Whenever they face arrest and detention, Iran's brave women willingly pay the price of freedom. They do not give up their mission of promoting hope and keep encouraging active opposition to the regime even from behind bars. In this quest for freedom, Iranian women count on the support of their sisters from around the world. The present report is an effort to bring to light the various aspects of life and struggle of Iranian women since March 2021.

The NCRI Women's Committee
March 2022

Women, the Force for Change



Posing an existential threat to the Iranian regime

A glance at the role of women in anti-regime protests

Over the past year, Iran has seen a growing trend of protests and nationwide uprisings by the disgruntled public. The time intervals from one protest to the next is shrinking, and Iran's women are exerting an increasing impact on them.

- The secret minutes of the meeting of the "Working Group for the Prevention of Basic Livelihood Crises" on February 2, 2022, revealed that the number of protest gatherings had increased by

48% in 2021 compared to 2020. It further indicated that the number of participants in these protests had increased by 98%.

- One of the participating officials in this meeting said, "the society is imploding." Women participated virtually in every protest. One could see them in the frontlines and hear their cries prevailing the voices of the angry crowds.
- Women were present everywhere in more than 600 nationwide strikes and demonstrations of teachers and retirees, in dozens of protests by nurses and physicians, and in the sit-in strikes of farmers. And of course, as the key plaintiffs seeking justice for their massacred children, the mothers of the victims of the November 2019 and other uprisings in Iran did not spare any opportunity to voice their support and join the protests. They stood up to the security forces'

crackdowns and were arrested and detained. But they did not give up on their demands for an adequate standard of living, freedom of political prisoners, and equal rights.

- The regime's Interior Minister, Ahmad Vahidi, issued a warning against the role of Iran's brave and selfless women. In an Interior Ministry national meeting on December 9, 2021, Vahidi declared, "If the Revolution (i.e., the clerical regime) were to receive a blow, it would be from women. Nothing is more important than focusing on the issue of women and families." (The state-run Entekhab.ir – December 9, 2021) Addressing the officials in charge of women and family affairs, he said, "Because of your position, the governorates should be entirely at your service. Your efforts should include a combination of hard and soft work, coercion, and choice, as well as obligation and willingness."

Teachers, a constant voice of defiance

Half of Iranian teachers are women, many of whom head their households. Deprived of the minimums of a decent life, teachers have been a constant voice of defiance. Most cities saw the widespread presence of women who often led the chants in the teachers' nationwide protests. The teachers' protests geared up in September. They declared that if they did not receive their demands for decent salaries and living conditions, they would not teach any classes. Teachers with Green Report Cards, most of them women, converged in Tehran from across the country and held 20 days of round-the-clock protests and sit-ins in Tehran outside the Ministry of Education. Teachers with Green Report Cards are young women and men who have passed the Education Ministry's exam to be permanently employed but have not been recruited by the ministry. "Teachers are awake, and outraged by discrimination," thousands of teachers cried out in dozens of coordinated and organized nationwide protests held every weekend.

Dozens of female teachers incarcerated

"Free all imprisoned teachers" is another demand of Iranian teachers because dozens of them, including women, are behind bars. Among the teachers incarcerated for their activism are Nahid Fat'halian, Zeinab Hamrang, Zahra Mohammadi, and Nosrat Beheshti. The former two contracted the Covid-19 in Evin Prison.



Nahid Fat'halian



Zeinab Hamrang



Zahra Mohammadi



Nosrat Beheshti

99% of teachers live under the poverty line

According to the latest available statistics, the Ministry of Education is the largest in Iran, with 1,013,655 teachers and administrative staff. Only the teachers permanently employed by the Education Ministry are considered officially hired. The Education Ministry does not formally employ most teachers in Iran. Private intermediary companies hire teachers on unofficial, temporary contracts. Unofficial teachers have different names, but the salaries of all of them are way below the minimum wage set by the Labor Ministry. At the same time, they do not receive any benefit, insurance, overtime fee, etc., for long hours of hard work. Teachers with permanent employment receive an average salary of 4 million Tomans a month. Teachers with temporary contracts receive between one and two million Tomans a month.

99% of teachers live under the poverty line

Poverty leads to suicide among teachers

The teachers' protests have been going on for years since most teachers have very difficult living conditions with salaries that are one-fourth or one-third of the poverty line.

- While the poverty line presently stands at 14 million Tomans (\$497), a teacher does not have even five million Tomans (\$177) to provide their families' most basic needs. These difficulties unfortunately culminated in the suicides of a few teachers in fall.
- A teacher self-immolated in Isfahan in July due to financial straits.
- On September 16, 2021, a math teacher committed suicide in Fars province because of being unable to make an advance deposit of 5 million Tomans to receive a 50 million Toman loan.

The woman's placard reads:
I am a teacher. I have come to teach my students that they must fight to obtain their rights



The Teachers' Ranking Plan

Implementing the Teachers' Ranking Plan has been the most crucial demand of teachers during their protests.

- According to the ranking system, the salary, and benefits of the five ranks of teachers must equal 80% of the salary and benefits of members of the science faculties of universities with the same rank.
- The Teachers' Ranking Plan was first proposed in 2004, obliging the government to implement the plan in March 2011. But the government failed to do so.
- In reaction to the teachers' nationwide uprising across 200 cities on December 12-14, 2021, the mullahs' parliament hastily approved the Teachers Ranking Plan after 10 years of stonewalling.
- But they halved the budget of 25 trillion Tomans (\$926 million) initially allocated to the project for a 6-month period. Meanwhile, the government did not disburse the payments. Instead, it promised to pay the increases in teachers' salaries retroactively next year.
- So, the teachers must wait – maybe years – to receive the 6-month compensation. Even then, the small increase of less than 25% (1.5 million Tomans or \$55) would do little to better the lives of teachers.
- “Since the government and parliament failed to deliver on their promise to fully implement the Teachers Ranking Plan, the Teachers Union Council announced that their rallies will continue.



Why does the regime not fulfill its promises to teachers?

The Iranian economy is bankrupt. The government faces a budget shortfall and will face even higher inflation by the end of the year. In such circumstances, it cannot allocate funds for vital and valuable issues, such as education, health, natural resources, the environment, etc. Presently, the main obstacle for teachers' ranking plan is the lack of sufficient funding and credit to implement it. In comparison, the regime spends the lion's

share of its budget on nuclear weapons development, illegal circumvention of sanctions, and funding of terrorist groups abroad, including the Hezbollah in Lebanon and the war in Syria. Add to this the embezzlements and grand thefts by the regime officials. Therefore, the clerical regime does not have any real intention to implement the Teachers' Ranking Plan.



The energetic and widespread presence of women in anti-regime protests in Iran is tantamount to their equal participation in the political leadership of society. Iranian women have proven that indeed, they are the Generation Equality, and they deserve the support of all women's rights advocates in their struggle for freedom and equality.

Women join the farmers' protests in Isfahan

The sit-in protest that farmers started on November 8, demanding their right to water share from Zayanderud, saw a massive support by the people of Isfahan on its 12th day. The mullahs' mismanagement of rivers and water has led to the destruction of agriculture and animal husbandry. Many farmers had to sell their livestock to survive. A week later, on November 26, thousands of women joined men to defy and repel the security forces' attack on Isfahan's farmers. The angry people and youth started chanting, "Death to Khamenei!" Women's voices were loud and clear. The protests took place despite the clerical regime's attack and setting

fire to the farmers' sit-in tent. The footages coming from Iran showed a remarkable presence of women leading the crowd with their chants and rushing to the aid of those being beaten, and confronting the security forces. The regime's troops forcefully cracked down on protesters firing tear gas and birdshots, blinding some 40 protesters and wounding at least 100. They arrested around 300 of the participants in the protest including minors.





A woman speaking to protesters in Shahrekord

Women in the water protests in Shahrekord

The people of Shahrekord, the capital of Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari Province, also rose in support of Isfahan farmers. Women played a very active role in four days of protests from November 21 to 24 and called for the protests to continue. Security forces tried to prevent the protests from spreading. Plainclothes agents clashed with the people. But the demonstrators continued to march, chanting anti-government slogans, and marched to the governor's office.

Water protests in Khuzestan

An uprising erupted in Khuzestan on July 15, 2021, in protest of severe water shortages, continuous water cut-offs and its transfer to other cities. The mullahs' regime opened fire to silence the cries for water. Dozens of young men were reported killed by security forces. The uprising in Khuzestan quickly spread throughout the province and the country, revealing the fact that Iranian society no longer wants the mullahs. Women were active in all the arisen cities.

- The women of Ahvaz braved the atmosphere of terror and chanted "death to Khamenei" and "death to the dictator."
- Women in different parts of Karaj and Tehran went to the rooftops and chanted, "Khuzestan is not alone," "death to the dictator", "death to Khamenei."
- On July 20, 2021, brave, young women chanted "Death to Khamenei," and "Death to the Islamic Republic," in Tehran's Sadeghieh metro station.
- On July 22, 2021, a group of women in Borazjan protested water shortage.
- The people of Tabriz took to the streets on July 24, showing their solidarity with the water protests in Khuzestan. Women played a leading role in the protests in Tabriz.
- The nurses and medical staff of the main hospital of Karaj and residents of the Fardis district of Karaj took to the streets on July 26. They chanted "death to the dictator," "from Karaj to Khuzestan, unite, unite." Women had a prominent presence in both protests in Karaj.



Water protests in Khuzestan



Young women's protest in Sadeghieh metro station



Protest in Tehran's City Theatre



Mothers of the November 2019 martyrs in Tehran's Azadi Square

- A group of mothers of the November 2019 victims marched in solidarity with the people of Khuzestan in Tehran's Azadi Square on July 30. These bereaved mothers held photographs of the November 2019 martyrs as they marched in Azadi Avenue. They were arrested and brutalized by security forces in Tehran's Sadeghieh Metro Station where they formed their gathering.
- Young women and men in Tehran gathered on July 31, 2021, in the park of the City Theatre to express their solidarity with the uprising in Khuzestan. They chanted, "From Khuzestan to Tehran, Unite, Unite," "Death to the dictator," etc. Security forces forcefully cracked down, brutalizing some of the protesters. However, the participants in the protest stood up to the repressive forces and defended the victims.
- Political prisoners, including Maryam Akbari Monfared and Atena Daemi, also sent messages of solidarity with the people of Khuzestan.



We vote for the regime's overthrow

Mothers of November 2019 martyrs

The mothers of the November 2019 martyrs were at the forefront of Iranian women's protests. They used every opportunity to declare their decisive vote, overthrow the mullahs' corrupt and blood-thirsty regime. They published dozens of video clips, letters, and posts on social media. They also held various protest gatherings, holding up the photos of their loved ones and seeking justice for them. In one such meeting, the mothers of the November 2019 martyrs vowed to seek justice for their children until their last breath. Referring to the boycott of the regime's sham presidential election, they declared, "We want the overthrow of this regime. We vote for the regime's overthrow."

Resistance Units

Activities of the Resistance Units in Iran bring hope to the people of Iran. The brave and courageous women in the Resistance Units keep alight the flame of resistance and protests in cities across the country every day. They installed placards in the roads and highways and wrote graffiti on walls, calling for the nationwide boycott of the mullahs' sham presidential election. They were also present in all the uprisings, leading the crowds. These courageous actions shine the light of hope in the people's hearts and crack the walls of fear and repression in every city.

Boycott of the sham presidential election

Throughout May, the streets of all major cities in Iran saw protests with chants of NO to the regime's upcoming sham presidential election. Women from all walks of life, including teachers, nurses, pharmacists, students, retirees, the defrauded clients, and the families of victims of the Ukrainian plane downed last year by the IRGC, held protests. Women in various villages and regions also staged protests against water shortages, power outages, and the demolition of houses. Families of farmers and workers also joined the protests. By their chants of "we will vote no more," protesters attested to the illegitimacy of the regime's election sham. Ebrahim Raisi, the executioner in the 1988 massacre, the mullahs' supreme leader's choice, symbolized this illegitimacy. Political prisoners, including Zahra Safaei, Parastoo Moini, Forough Taghipour, and Marzieh Farsi in Qarchak Prison, sent messages boycotting the sham elections.



Executions of Women in Iran

The shocking rise in the executions of women

The clerical regime stepped up executions in Iran with a shocking rise in the death penalties carried out for women. At least 18 women were hanged in Iran during 2021 compared to the eight women executed in 2020. The number of women executed since September 2013 reaches 130, which amounts to the execution of an average of 15 women per year. In the one-month period from November 22 to December 21, 2021, the clerical regime executed at least seven women. The seven executions in just one month indicated an outrageous upsurge compared to the annual average of 15.

Ebrahim Ra'isi oversees surge in executions

Iran holds the world record for the execution of women and the per capita execution rate among all countries. The death penalty is the clerical regime's means for existence and survival. The Iranian regime uses the death penalty to suppress and silence a disgruntled public, the majority of whom live under the poverty line, are unemployed, and deprived of freedom of expression. The Iranian regime executed at least 365 persons in 2021, compared to the 255 executed in 2020. Of course, the actual number of those executed is higher because the regime executes many in secret. The significant rise in the number of death penalties carried out in Iran in 2021 is a product of the presidency of Ebrahim Raisi who is notorious for his direct role in the massacre of 30,000 political

prisoners in just a few months in 1988. The mullahs' judiciary carried out the death sentences for at least 30 Iranian women during the two years when Raisi headed the branch from January 2019 until June 2021. An additional 12 women were executed during six months of Raisi's taking office as president in June 2021. Facing growing discontent in society, the inhuman clerical regime has found the only way to preserve its rule in intensifying executions, torture, and repression. The Iranian Resistance has repeatedly urged the international community to strongly condemn the growing number of executions in Iran and to take immediate action to rescue prisoners on death row. Considering the significant increase in the executions, this imperative becomes ever more urgent.

Iran's clerical regime is the world's chief executioner of women

At least **4,700** people have been executed under Hassan Rouhani and Ebrahim Raisi as president

4700

An average of **15** women are executed every year.

130

15

30

130 women were among the victims of executions

In the two years when Raisi presided the Judiciary, at least **30** women were executed

Death Penalty

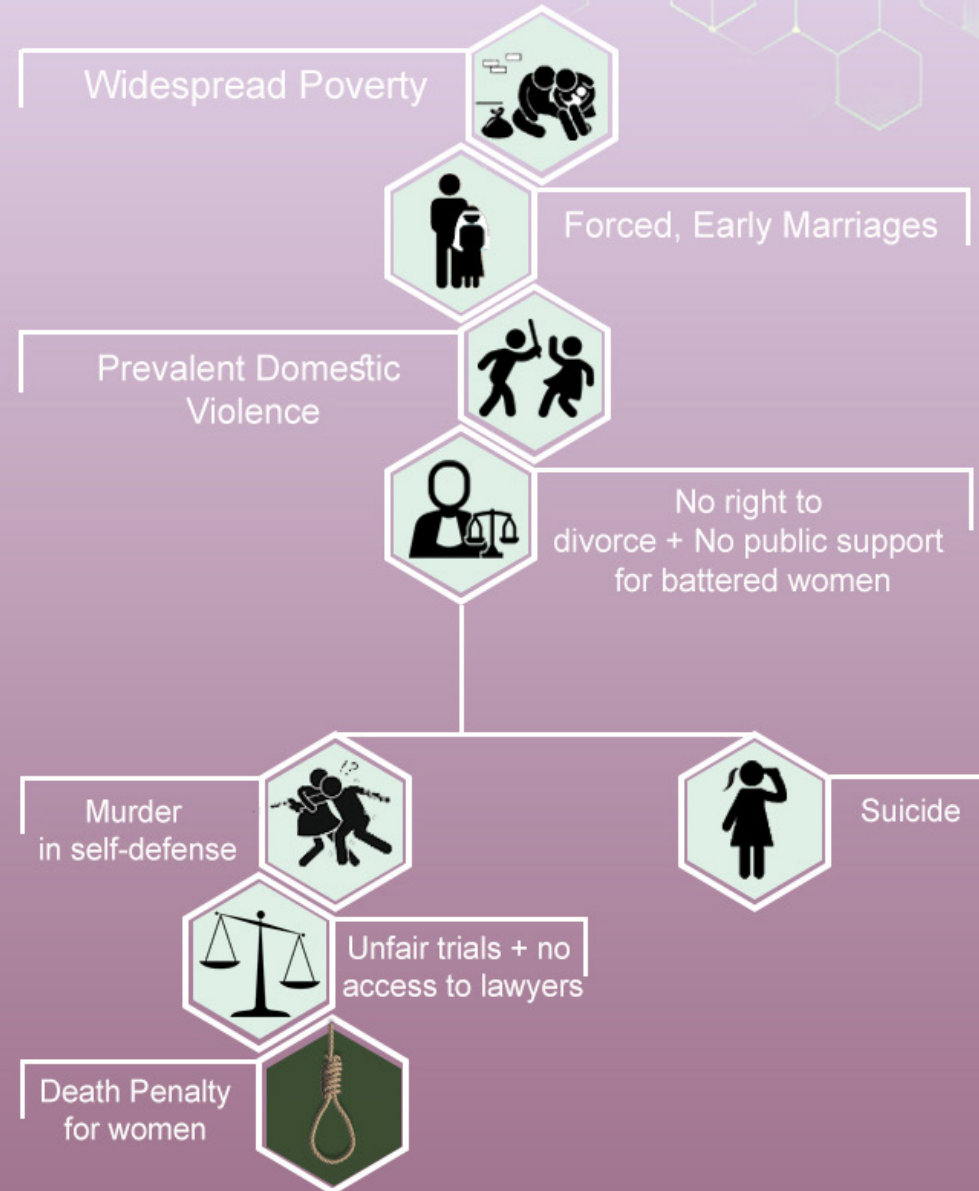
Who are the women who receive the death penalty?

The clerical judiciary usually hands down the death penalty for women who commit murder. Female convicts usually commit murder in self-defense against domestic violence, which is widespread in Iran. In the face of widespread poverty and parents who force their daughters into early marriages, some women who are also deprived of the right to divorce end up committing murder while others commit suicide.

At least **18** women were hanged in Iran during 2021 compared to the eight women executed in 2020.

The number of women executed since September 2013 to date reaches **130**, which amounts to the execution of an average of **15** women per year.

How women end up receiving the Death Penalty in Iran?



Raisi sets a new record: The executions of seven women in just one month is half the average annual rate

Political prisoner Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee in a letter from prison, wrote:

"I learned that a large percentage of them had murdered their husbands ---instantly or on a pre-meditated plan—after years of being humiliated, insulted, battered and even tortured by them and because of being deprived of their right to divorce. Although, they consider themselves criminals but are convinced that if any of their repeated appeals for divorce had been granted, they would not have committed such a crime."

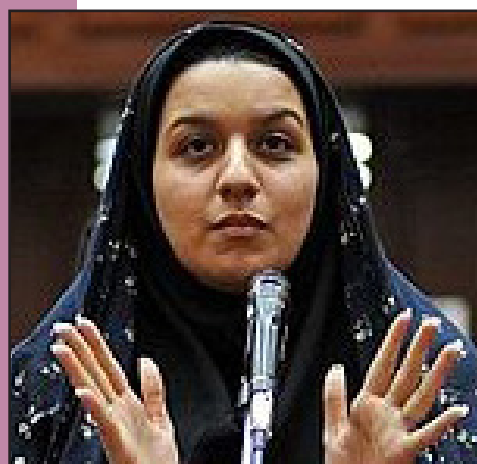
Many of the death-row women have committed murder at a young age as a minor and as a victim of forced early marriages and domestic violence. They go through unfair trials without having access to a lawyer.

Three Emblematic Cases



Zeinab Sekaanvand

The Central Prison of Urmia authorities hanged Zeinab Sekaanvand, 24, on October 2, 2018. She had been coerced into confessing to the murder of her husband in 2012 at the age of 17. Her claims were not adequately examined during her trial. Forced into marriage at the age of 15, Zeinab Sekaanvand lived two painful years, being battered every day by her husband. She told the judge that her brother-in-law had raped her several times, and committed the murder.



Reyhaneh Jabbari

Reyhaneh was an interior designer, 19 years old when she was assaulted by one of her clients, a senior official of the Intelligence Ministry. Reyhaneh killed the man in self-defense; however, the court convicted and executed her after seven years of torture and imprisonment on October 25, 2014. The Intelligence Ministry and prison officials wanted Reyhaneh to make false confessions to justify their official's crime in exchange for her life.



Zahra Esmā'ili

Zahra Esmā'ili, 42, with two children, was executed on February 17, 2021, for claiming responsibility for the murder of her husband. She did so to save her teenage daughter, who had shot her father in the head. Zahra's husband was a director general at the mullahs' Ministry of Intelligence. He routinely mistreated and battered his wife and children, and even threatened to kill his wife. He had attempted to sexually assault his teenage daughter. Because of such brutalities, his daughter killed him with the help of her brother.

Names of women executed in Iran since January 2021

1	Unnamed woman, January 27, 2021 Sanandaj	11	Susan Rezaipour, 31 October 27, 2021 Qazvin
2	Unnamed woman, 23 February 8, 2021 Ardabil	12	Unnamed woman November 23, 2021 Yasuj
3	Zahra Esmā'ili, 42 February 17, 2021 Karaj	13	Maryam Khakpour, 41 November 25, 2021 Isfahan
4	Maryam Karimi March 13, 2021 Rasht	14	Unnamed woman December 9, 2021 Kerman
5	Nafiseh Pakmehr March 14, 2021 Taybad	15	Unnamed woman December 9, 2021 Kerman
6	Kobra Fatemi, 41 May 23, 2021 Yazd	16	Unnamed woman December 9, 2021 Kerman
7	Shamsi Pirostovan May 30, 2021 Qazvin	17	Massoumeh Zare'i, 40 December 14, 2021 Amol
8	Unnamed woman September 8, 2021 Karaj	18	Fatemeh Aslani December 19, 2021 Isfahan
9	Unnamed woman September 8, 2021 Karaj	19	Khatoun Hamidi, 23 February 5, 2022 Qazvin
10	Unnamed woman September 8, 2021 Karaj		

The Price of Freedom

Conditions of Political Prisoners and Prisoners of Conscience

The mullahs' misogynistic religious dictatorship sees a national security threat in women who think freely and defend human rights. They cannot tolerate freedom of thought and speech, especially when it comes to women. The mullahs see a national security threat in every woman. So, the regime's repressive forces are constantly looking to find and arrest women who dare to speak out loud against the regime's oppressive practices and policies. Once in detention, the regime's henchmen torture them to speak against themselves and renounce their past activities and beliefs. When the henchmen are frustrated at breaking these determined women, they try to eliminate them through various means.

One of the regime's most common methods is denying medical care to prisoners who become very ill in the appalling prison conditions.

Amnesty International writes in this regard: "Iran's authorities are callously toying with the lives of prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners by denying them adequate medical care, putting them at grave risk of death, permanent disability or other irreversible damage to their health. Denying medical care to political prisoners is cruel and utterly indefensible. Prisoners' access to health care is a right enshrined in both international and Iranian law. When depriving a prisoner of medical care causes severe pain or suffering and it is intentionally done for purposes such as punishment, intimidation or to extract a forced 'confession,' it constitutes torture."

During the pandemic, the Prisons' Organization did not take any effective measures to protect prisoners and particularly political prisoners in overcrowded prisons. Prisoners have to buy their own masks, gloves, and disinfectants. Another systematic practice by the clerical regime to eliminate their opponents is sending them among dangerous criminals in violation of the principle of separation of crimes. Prison authorities hire ordinary and hazardous criminals to harass, beat, and even kill political prisoners. Following is a glance over the conditions of some of the female political prisoners and prisoners of conscience in Iran since March 2021.



Zahra Safaei

Detained in the notorious Qarchak Prison, Zahra Safaei is very ill and cannot tolerate prison conditions. She has been experiencing severe pain in the kidneys since February 2021. Her health further deteriorated in June. She suffered from shortness of breath and chest pain for two months without receiving treatment. Finally, she had a heart attack on August 24, 2021. The prison's clinic staff gave her painkillers and returned her to the ward. But on August 27, a visiting cardiologist diagnosed her with a heart attack and said she needed to be hospitalized immediately. And yet, it took four days for the authorities to send her to a hospital on August 31. They chained her hands and feet to the bed in the hospital and returned her to Qarchak Prison on September 4. Despite her heart condition, the Qarchak Prison authorities refuse to provide medical treatment to Zahra Safaei despite the doctor's instructions. They did not allow her to visit a dentist when she had a bad toothache, either. Security forces arrested Zahra Safaei and her daughter, Parastoo Moini, in Tehran on February 24, 2020. They are sentenced to 8 and 6 years in prison, respectively. Each of them received an additional 15 months in mid-December 2021 for calling for the regime's sham election boycott. Zahra Safaei, 58, suffered another heart stroke on October 27, 2020, after being harassed and intimidated by prison authorities.

Inmates hired by Qarchak Prison authorities have repeatedly attacked Mrs. Safaei. Her life is in grave danger as she is detained among prisoners convicted of violent crimes, violating the principle of separation of different categories of crimes.

Parastoo Moini

Parastoo Moini, 21, was a student of computer sciences. She is serving a 6-year sentence in Qarchak Prison. Dangerous criminals have attacked her several times in a bid to kill her. Parastoo, her mother, Forough Taghipour, and Marzieh Farsi have received an additional 15 months in prison for writing a letter and calling for the regime's sham presidential election boycott. During her interrogation on July 26, 2021, Parastoo Moini's interrogator told her: "The situation may be like 1988 again! If we do not execute you, we will make you wish to be executed." The clerical regime massacred more than 30,000 political prisoners in 1988.



Parastoo Moini and Zahra Safaei



Forough Taghipour (above) and Marzieh Farsi (below)



Forough Taghipour

The Revolutionary Court of Tehran handed down a 5-year sentence for Forough Taghipour, imprisoned for supporting the opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK), on March 7, 2021. Ms. Taghipour, who is jailed in Qarchak Prison, has contracted the Omicron and is detained in a filthy room without the essential facilities and medical care. Forough Taghipour has been under tremendous pressure. Inmates hired and incited by the warden of Qarchak have harassed and attacked her several times. She was sentenced in mid-December 2021 to an additional 15 months in prison for calling for the boycott of the sham presidential election in June. Forough Taghipour, 27, has a B.S. in accounting. She was arrested on February 24, 2020.

Marzieh Farsi

Marzieh Farsi, a political prisoner in Qarchak, has suffered from rheumatism due to poor prison conditions and the cold and has been denied medical care. Ms. Farsi has cancer and is in prison under these circumstances. Marzieh Farsi was sentenced in mid-December 2021 to an additional 15 months in prison for calling for the boycott of the sham presidential election in June. Marzieh Farsi was arrested in Spring 2020 for supporting the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK).

Maryam Akbari Monfared

Born in 1975, Maryam Akbari Monfared has three daughters. On December 31, 2009, she was arrested and is serving her 13th year without a single leave day. On March 9, 2021, Mrs. Akbari was violently banished from Evin Prison to the Prison of Semnan. She is the only political prisoner in the women's ward of Semnan Prison. Her detention in this prison violates the principle of separation of crimes. Ironically, no legal authority accepts the responsibility of Maryam Akbari's banishment to Semnan Prison. The Prison of Semnan lacks the minimum sanitary infrastructures. Inmates have no water to take a bath and take turns. One year after her violent transfer to Semnan, Maryam Akbari still does not have a telephone card. She must call her family in the presence of a prison agent. She does not have access to newspapers and any reading material, either. Mrs. Akbari has developed a fatty liver disease but cannot procure and cook the food she needs. She has been eating bread and cheese for about a year. She also suffers from rheumatism and thyroid malfunction.

Nejat Anvar Hamidi

Nejat Anvar Hamidi, 66, is going blind in the Sepidar Prison of Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan Province. She suffers from cataracts in both eyes. She also experienced bleeding in both eyes on October 26, 2021. Although she needs an urgent operation, she has been deprived of medical care and sick leave on the order of the Intelligence Ministry. The prison's doctor has told her, "You don't need any operation until you go blind!" Nejat Anvar Hamidi was incarcerated in March 2019 to serve her 15-year sentence for supporting the opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). She suffers from Thyroid malfunction, high blood pressure, and blood lipid. She has twice contracted the Covid-19 without receiving medical care.



Maryam Akbari Monfared



Nejat Anvar Hamidi



Mahin Akbari

Mahim Akbari

Mahin Akbari was among the supporters of the main Iranian opposition, the PMOI/MEK, arrested and imprisoned in Rasht in September 2021. Her sentence expired on October 7, but the authorities extended her sentence for another year because she refused to ask for pardon from the mullahs' supreme leader. She went on a hunger strike on October 18, 2021, and declared that she would continue until she was released. Mahin Akbari, 59, was a political prisoner in the 1980s. She was re-arrested in a raid on her residence by agents of the Intelligence Department of Rasht in early February 2019. She was taken under interrogation and abused physically and mentally. Subsequently, Mahin Akbari was transferred to the women's ward of the Lakan Prison of Rasht.

12 years for three political prisoners

Tehran's Revolutionary Court sentenced three female political prisoners to a total of 12 years on charges of "propaganda against the state" and "assembly and collusion against national security" through cooperating with the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI/MEK). Makhsus Bukharaei, 63, and Azar Musazadeh, 59, received five years each. Roghayeh Sultan Mirzaei, 69, received two years. The clerical regime's Judiciary also confiscated the garden belonging to Mrs. Mirzaei. All three women were political prisoners in the 1980s and had already spent long years in prison. Mrs. Musazadeh's husband was among the PMOI political prisoners massacred in 1988. Azar Musazadeh and Makhsus Bukharaei had also been arrested in the 2010s and imprisoned for several years.

Somayyeh Qoraishi

Somayyeh Qoraishi was arrested in December 2019 for supporting the opposition People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran and sentenced to five years in prison. She has been detained in the women's ward of the Central Prison of Urmia for a year. During her time in detention, she had a divorce. Somayyeh Qoraishi has a sick child, but prison authorities have refused to release or grant her medical leave. She developed a critical heart condition in May 2021. The officials of Urmia Prison neither hospitalized her nor did they grant her medical leave.

Saba Kord Afshari

Saba Kord Afshari is very ill, suffering from a stomach ulcer and bleeding, and needs regular medical treatment. She was deprived of having a prison leave for three months in early February 2022 because she had protested the lack of boiling water for the prisoners' use. On January 4, 2022, the guards in the visitation hall disconnected her phone before she finished talking to her father. In retaliation for her protest, prison authorities banned her from visitations for two weeks. She had already been deprived of inter-prison calls and visits with her mother, Raheleh Ahmadi Asl. Saba refused food and medicine from May 8 to 18, demanding her mother's freedom from jail. Saba Kord Afshari, 23, is an outspoken opponent of the mandatory Hijab. On June 1, 2019, she was re-arrested and detained in Evin Prison. She received a sentence of 24 years in prison on August 19, 2019. On December 9, 2020, she was banished to Qarchak Prison as part of a plan to disperse political prisoners from the women's ward of Evin Prison. On December 13, she was severely hurt and bruised in a guards' raid on Ward 8. On January 26, 2021, she was violently moved from Ward 8 to Ward 6, where she later contracted the Covid-19. Dangerous criminals enticed by the prison authorities constantly threaten to kill her. Most lately, on February 20, 2022, an ordinary prisoner tried to strangle her. While other inmates helped save Saba, prison guards and authorities only watched and stood by.



Raheleh Ahmadi and Saba Kord Afshari

Raheleh Ahmadi

Raheleh Ahmadi is the mother of Saba Kord Afshari. The judicial authorities arrested and sentenced her to 31 months in prison to pressure her daughter to cooperate with the Intelligence Ministry. Mrs. Raheleh Ahmadi was detained in Evin Prison. She endured a severe nervous shock when Saba was violently moved from Evin Prison and banished to Qarchak Prison. As a result, Mrs. Ahmadi suffered damage to her spine and lost control of her left leg. She was also deprived of attending her mother's funeral. After suffering for more than a year and being deprived of sufficient medical care and her medications, she finally received a leave on February 16, 2022.



Monireh Arabshahi and Yasaman Aryani

Monireh Arabshahi

Monireh Arabshahi and her daughter, Yasaman Aryani, are imprisoned for opposing the mandatory veil. On October 21, 2020, the Evin Prison authorities banished them to the Kachouii Prison in Karaj. Monireh Arabshahi was granted a medical leave on a heavy bail of 500 million Tomans on May 3, 2021. She returned to Kachouii Prison on July 23, 2021, after undergoing a thyroid gland operation. Then, her health deteriorated in prison. On July 31, she was sent to hospital but was returned to jail after one day without receiving medical treatment. On August 4, she was sent on medical leave until October, when she was called to prison again without completing her treatment. Efforts to obtain prison leave for Yasaman Aryani to attend to her sick mother did not lead anywhere.

Yasaman Aryani

Several ordinary prisoners beat political prisoner Yasaman Aryani on February 23, 2022, when she intended to talk to the head of the ward to demand her rights. Yasaman Aryani, 25, was arrested for the second time on April 10, 2019. She and her mother, Monireh Arabshahi, who was arrested the day after her daughter, were transferred to the Qarchak Prison. On August 13, 2019, the Revolutionary Court sentenced them to 16 years in prison on charges of "conspiring to act against national security," "propaganda against the state," and "inciting corruption and prostitution."

Atena Daemi

On the eve of the Persian New Year, political prisoner Atena Daemi was abruptly banished from Tehran's Evin Prison to Lakan Prison of Rasht on March 16, 2021. Atena had not been informed in advance, and she was not allowed to pack her belongings or contact her family. Prison guards put cuffs on her hands and feet and moved her from the women's ward of Evin Prison. Ms. Daemi was kept 23 days in the quarantine ward, longer than usual. While in Lakan Prison, among ordinary prisoners in violation of the principle of separation of crimes, Atena Daemi sent messages calling for the boycott of the mullahs' sham presidential election and supporting the uprising in Khuzestan. Then, on August 21, she went on a hunger strike. Lack of maintenance and frequent cut-offs of telephone lines in Lakan Prison deprived her and other prisoners of calling their families. When the telephone lines were fixed, she ended her hunger strike, and sent a message exposing the appalling conditions in Lakan Prison. The disciplinary committee subsequently informed her that she could only call home in the presence of a prison agent, which she refused. The authorities also forbid other inmates from talking or contacting Atena Daemi. Atena Daemi, 32, finished serving her 5-year prison term on July 4, 2020.

But she remained in jail due to new cases filed against her by the IRGC and Intelligence Ministry (MOIS). Two courts sentenced her to a total of five years in prison and 74 lashes. On January 24, Atena Daemi was suddenly released from prison without prior notice.

Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee

Political prisoner Golrokh Iraee was violently moved out of Qarchak Prison after a raid by 20 guards on Ward 8 on December 13, 2020, and sent to the IRGC Intelligence Ward 2A in Tehran's Evin Prison. On January 24, 2021, she was returned to Qarchak, where the authorities told her she could not call her family. On the same night, she was banished to the Prison of Amol in Mazandaran Province, northern Iran. In July, Golrokh Iraee said the women detainees in Amol Prison are deprived of their minimum rights in a message from Amol Prison. She declared that she would refuse to use the telephone or go for visitations accompanied every time by the guards' insults. Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee was imprisoned for 3 years since 2016 when she was arrested for writing an unpublished story against the cruel punishment of stoning. During this time, she was violently transferred to Qarchak Prison. She was returned to Evin only after an 81-day hunger strike. She was released in April 2019, but arrested again on November 9, 2019 and transferred to Qarchak Prison to serve 25 months of imprisonment.



Zeinab Jalalian



Atena Daemi



Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee

Zeinab Jalalian

Kurdish political prisoner Zeinab Jalalian has been held incommunicado since November 9, 2020, when she was abruptly relocated for the fourth time in six months from Kermanshah to the Prison of Yazd. She suffers from various illnesses, including asthma, pterygium, an oral thrush condition, and GI complications. She tested positive for the Covid-19 while in detention in Qarchak Prison in the spring of 2020. Zeinab Jalalian, 38, was sentenced to death in 2009 for membership in a dissident group. The verdict was commuted to life in prison in 2011. Ms. Jalalian has been in jail without any leaves since 2007. The Ministry of Intelligence has deprived her of medical treatment as a way of torture. She is presently under various forms of psychological pressure and deprived of her rights as a prisoner to express remorse and collaborate with the Intelligence Ministry.

Nahid Fat'halian

Retired teacher Nahid Fat'halian tested positive for the Covid-19 in June. Evin Prison authorities did not test other prisoners or separate her from other inmates. She has remained in the women's ward of Evin Prison in legal limbo since April 2020. Nahid Fat'halian faces charges of "assembly and collusion against national security," "propaganda against the state," and "destruction of public properties" for allegedly participating in the November 2019 nationwide protests and distributing flyers protesting the living conditions of teachers and retirees.

Nosrat Beheshti

Security forces arrested Nosrat Beheshti on August 4, 2021, and detained her in the Central Prison of Mashhad (a.k.a. Vakilabad). The Revolutionary Court of Mashhad sentenced her to five years in prison. Nosrat Beheshti went on hunger strike from October 24 to 30, 2021, protesting her temporary detention and unacceptable charges against her. Nosrat Beheshti is one of the 14 signatories of a letter demanding the resignation of the clerical regime's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. Nosrat Beheshti is a retired teacher and mother of six. Security forces arrested her for participating in the teachers' protests and calling for adjusting teachers' salaries with other government employees. She was released temporarily on a bail of 1 billion Tomans until the final disposition of her case.

Sakineh Parvaneh

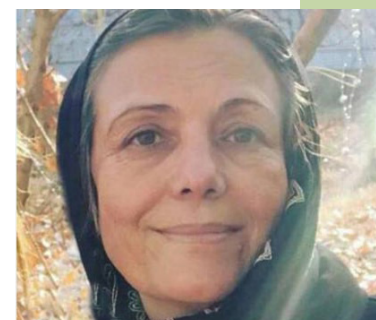
Kurdish political prisoner Sakineh Parvaneh, 30, is imprisoned in the Central Prison of Mashhad while deprived of receiving essential medical treatment. In mid-May 2021, she went on hunger strike as part of her protest against being denied medical treatment in Mashhad Vakilabad Prison. Sakineh was transferred to the prison's clinic due to hypotension. Doctors said she had to be immediately transferred to the hospital, but the prison authorities refused.

Saada Khadirzadeh

Saada Khadirzadeh from Piranshahr, in West Azerbaijan Province, is married with two children and was one-month pregnant when arrested on October 14, 2021. Although the warrant for her detention had been changed to temporary release on bail, the authorities of the Central Prison of Urmia refuse to release her. Saada Khadirzadeh, 32, is in critical physical conditions. She suffers from hypertension, kidney problems, lumbar disc condition, heart, and nervous problems, and being pregnant. She underwent a surgical operation for appendicitis but was returned to prison without recovering. These illnesses make it very difficult for Ms. Khadirzadeh to endure prison conditions. The prosecutor, the inspector, and the Central Prison of Urmia authorities have rejected her request for conditional release even on bail and despite a medical certificate. She has been deprived of family visits or a lawyer's access throughout her detention.



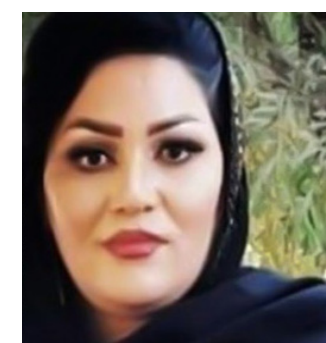
Nahid Fat'halian



Nosrat Beheshti



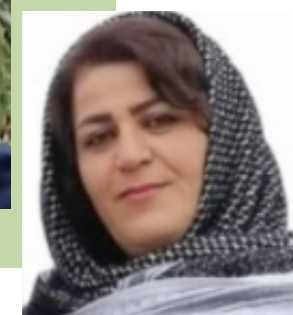
Sakineh Parvaneh



Saada Khadirzadeh



Khadijeh Mehdipour



Golaleh Moradi

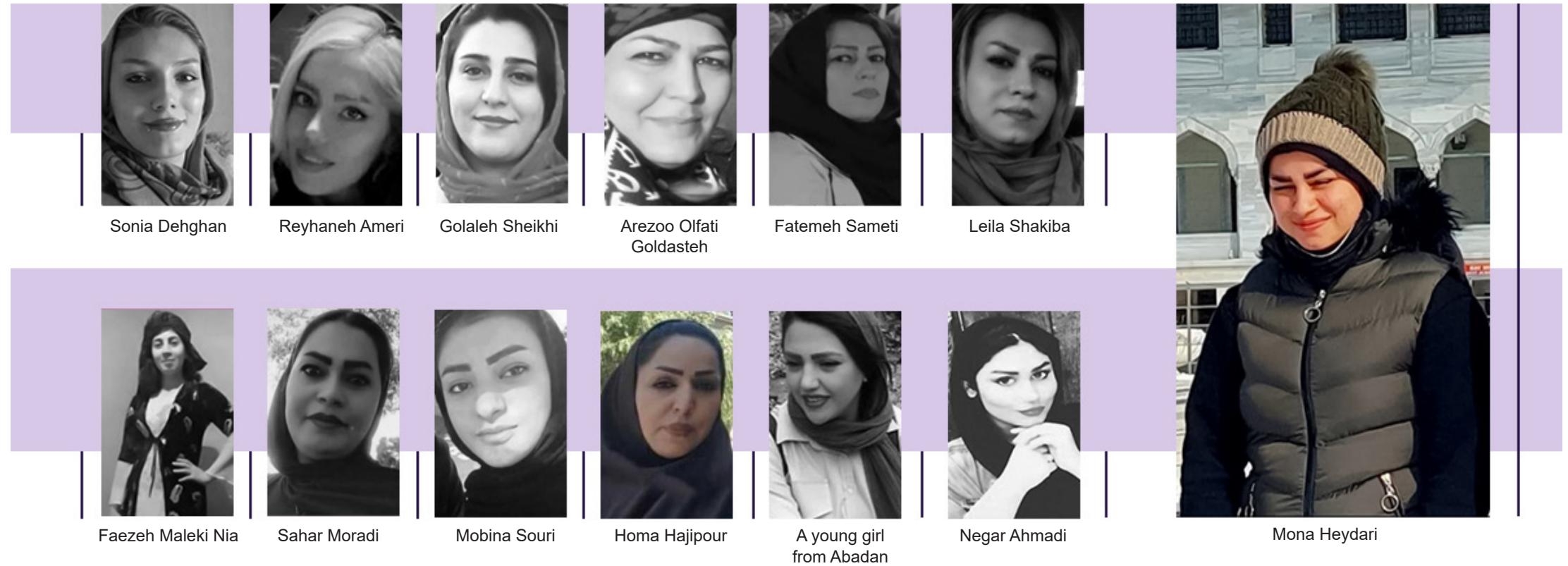
Khadijeh Mehdipour

Khadijeh Mehdipour, 34 and a resident of Ivan-e Gharb, was arrested on October 10, 2021, and is presently detained in the women's ward of the Central Prison of Ilam in violation of the principle of separation of crimes. She is sentenced to 20 months in prison. Incited by Ilam Prison authorities, three prisoners convicted of violent crimes beat and injured Ms. Mehdipour in the eye on February 10, 2022. The three inmates threatened to continue to harass her. Khadijeh Mehdipour is denied medical treatment despite repeated headaches and a black spot in her eye. She told her family that her kidneys had been infected because of being detained for two weeks in the quarantine ward where the walls and the floor were damp. The intelligence forces initially intended to take Ms. Mehdipour to the Forensics to undergo neural and mental examinations in a bid to show that she was mentally ill. But she firmly resisted. They also repeatedly asked her to write a letter of remorse, which she refused.

Golaleh Moradi

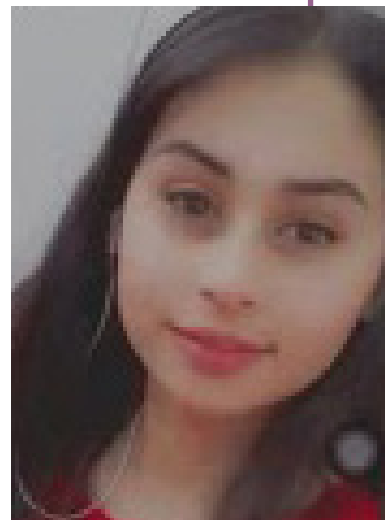
Golaleh Moradi is a political prisoner detained without trial under uncertain status in the Central Prison of Urmia since mid-April 2021. The Kurdish woman is deprived of having access to a lawyer or legal counsel. Mrs. Moradi has been transferred several times to the detention centers of the intelligence services and tortured to make false confessions. They had threatened to torture her two sons before her eyes if she did not cooperate with the services.

Violence Against Women



Misogynist laws, patriarchal order sanction femicides, honor killings

An average of 375 to 450 honor killings are recorded every year



Romina Ashrafi, 14, beheaded by his father on May 21, 2020

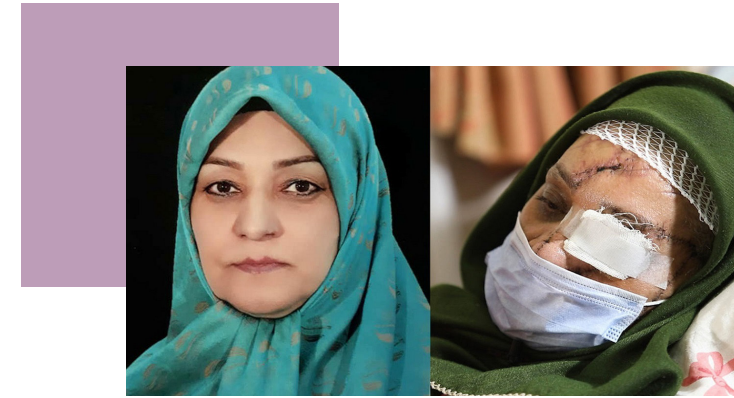
The horrific murder of Mona Heydari in early February shocked the world. The 17-year-old mother was beheaded by her husband, who paraded in the streets in bright daylight, holding her head in one hand and a knife in the other. The ruthless murder was the culmination of the drastic rise in violence against women in Iran over the last few years. An average of 375 to 450 honor killings are recorded every year. At least eight women fall victims to honor killings every day. A two-year investigation by an NGO in Ahvaz shows that at least 60 women, including 11- and 15-year-old girls, have been killed in Khuzestan during the period under study. According to the research, none of the killers has been punished. Even the families did not file any complaints. Honor killings account for about 20% of all murders and 50% of homicides. However, they are not the only form of femicide in Iran. Not a week goes by in Iran without the killings of women making news headlines.

Some facts and figures on domestic violence

- Domestic violence had a 25% rise during the Covid-19 pandemic. (The state-run Salamnews.com, September 18, 2021)
According to a survey done in five metropolises, 77.2% of Iranian women experienced violence during the pandemic. (The state-run Fararu.com, December 8, 2021)
- The National Statistics Center (NSC) declared that 96% of the total 80,187 cases examined by the Forensics Office were related to wife battering. Another NSC figure was that 13.6% of the 585,374 physical fights registered in 2020 were related to violence against wives. (The state-run ISNA news agency, August 24, 2021)
- Women have no safe place to take refuge when their husbands threaten them. There are no centers in any city to advise or assist women. (The state-run ILNA news agency, June 21, 2021)

The horrifying examples of the past year

- Parastoo Nauvardi is 36 and from Abadan. Her husband, addicted to crack, subjected her to brutal physical and mental torture for three years. Fleeing the house, Parastoo took refuge with her parents. After some primary treatment, she posted a clip describing her suffering. (Balatarin - October 12, 2021)
Parastoo describes some of the torture: "My husband has blinded me in both eyes, scalded me with boiling water, hanged me several times, and broken my arm. He used to stab me, and the scars are evident all over my body. My ears are seriously damaged."
- Sabri Yazdanpanah, 27, is a victim of child marriages. She suffered a fractured skull and injured face, arms, and legs when her husband ran over her by a car to revenge her request for divorce.
- Her father-in-law and husband severely tortured Thuyebek Fekri from Baneh. After being beaten, her husband shot and severely injured her arm.
- A young man set fire to his wife in the parking lot of her apartment building. The woman was transferred to a hospital with 40% burns. (The state-run mardomsalari.ir, December 6, 2021)
- In another incident in Tehran, a man splashed acid on his wife and 12-year-old son. (The state-run Iran newspaper, November 23, 2021)



Ashraf Sadat Hosseini



Parastoo Nauvardi

- Ashraf Sadat Hosseini was a victim of domestic violence who made headlines in 2020. She lost her eyes and a hand. In an interview on the lawlessness in the country concerning violence against women, she said, "Why does the law not support us? Hundreds of women are like me. Why are the men who inflict such violence on their families not dealt with? Every time I filed a complaint, they told me, 'He is your husband. We cannot intervene!' Why does the law not provide any support for women like me? How long will this situation last? I will follow up this case to gain my rights and the rights of my daughter and all the women in similar situations." (The state-run salamnews.com, January 5, 2022)

The Root Cause

The mullahs' regime in Iran is inherently misogynous. It invigorates its forces and policies around the subjugation of women and gender discrimination. Two hallmarks of violence against women in Iran are 1. it is state-sponsored, and 2. it is institutionalized in the law and promoted by it. The clerical regime's constitution and laws promote and sanction forced early marriages, child abuse, domestic violence, and honor killings. Violence against women is not criminalized in Iran. The bill proposed to prevent violence against women has been held up for more than ten years without being passed. The Iranian Judiciary's failure to prosecute the perpetrators has further contributed to the spread of violence against women. These are the reasons why we have witnessed a steady stream of women's ruthless killings in the last few years. Under the mullahs' regime, men rely on the laws that recognize men as heads of the family and the owners of women. Under the clerical regime, women are second-class citizens and subservient to men in all laws. Such laws, and the dominant misogynous culture, green light men to exact revenge from the women in the family in the face of any economic or social pressure. While knives, sickles, or other weapons are in the hands of a father, brother, husband, or another male relative, preventing more murders of women requires that misogynist thought be condemned and destroyed.

28 cases of honor killings involving child brides

1. January 14, 2021, Sardasht, W. Azerbaijan - Sonia Dehghan, 25, a young child's mother, was murdered by her brother and cousin on her father's orders. Sonia had separated from her husband three years ago and planned to get married.
2. February 3, 2021, Urmia - Eshrat Nik-khoei, 32, mother of three, was set on fire and killed by her father and brother. She had divorced her husband and returned to his father's home.
3. February 24, 2021, Urmia - Azizeh Haqqi Ayyubi, 33, mother of four, was strangled by her husband in a slaughterhouse.
4. May 10, 2021, Sarpol-e Zahab, Kermanshah - Nasrin Pahlavani, 25, mother of two, suffocated by gas leakage caused by her brother.
5. July 2, 2021, Kermanshah - Shakiba Bakhtiyar, 16, was stabbed to death by her father when she came home late.
6. July 25, 2021, Sanandaj, Kurdistan - Bayan Moradi, 40, mother of three and a victim of child marriage, was shot and killed by her husband. Her pregnant sister also died in this attack.
7. July 26, 2021, Sardasht, Kermanshah - Homa Hajipour, a former employee of the Department of Health, was shot 20 times by her husband. She had returned to Iran to divorce her husband.
8. August 8, 2021 - Sara Pirzadi, who had just married another man, was shot five times and killed by her cousin.
9. August 23, 2021, N. Iran - A woman was murdered by her husband.
10. August 31, 2021, Lorestan - Mobina Sourii, 14, was strangled by a scarf by her husband (a cleric) based on unfounded suspicion.
12. September 1, 2021, Tehran - Mahsa, 27, was stabbed in the chest by her husband and died.
13. October 3, 2021, Sanandaj - Faezeh Maleki Nia, 22, was set alight and killed by her father because she planned to get married after divorce.
14. October 15, 2021, Hamedan - Leila Shakiba, 39, mother of two, was stabbed to death by her husband.
15. October 15, 2021, Rafsanjan - A 21-year-old woman was murdered by her father for befriending a young man.
16. October 19, 2021 - A 73-year-old man attacked and stabbed his 63-year-old wife.
17. October 19, 2021, Kerman - A father killed his 21-year-old daughter and dumped her body into a deep well.
18. On November 3, 2021, Kermanshah - Arezoo Olfati Goldasteh, 42, was shot and killed by her cousin after turning down his marriage request.
19. November 4, 2021, Khuzestan - A young woman was shot and killed by her relatives.
20. November 5, 2021, Hamedan - Negar Ahmadi, 27, was kidnapped, raped, strangled and shot. She had turned down the marriage request by the killer.
21. December 2021, Sarbandar, Khuzestan - Leila Tamimi was murdered by her uncle for having an affair.
22. December 2021, Dashteyari, Sistan, and Baluchestan - Two young women, 17 and 18, were shot and killed by their relatives.
23. December 8, 2021, Babolsar - A man stabbed his wife after seeing her meet another man.
24. December 20, 2021, Abadan - A young woman was murdered by her brother for marrying the man she loved.
25. December 30, 2021, Shushtar, Khuzestan - Negin Darvishi, 24, and mother of a 3-year-old, was shot and killed by her husband for asking for divorce.
26. January 23, 2022 - A teenage girl was stabbed by her brother for publishing her photos in social media.
27. February 5, 2022, Ahvaz - Mona Heydari, 17, and mother of a 3-year-old, was beheaded by her husband and brother-in-law.

32 cases of femicide caused by unbridled domestic violence

1. March 24, 2021, Tehran - Her husband killed Soraya Khatir with a hard object.
2. April 12, 2021, Karaj - A young woman was stabbed to death by her husband after she filed for divorce.
3. May 29, 2021, Saqqez - Golaleh Sheikhi (Negin), 25, died after being punched by her husband. The man then burned her body and hid it in a pit.
4. June 5, 2021, Ilam Province - A woman, 35, was stabbed to death by her husband.
5. June 6, 2021, Kermanshah - A man shot and killed his wife and sister-in-law.
6. June 10, 2021, Ilam Province - A man shot to death his wife.
7. July 3, 2021, E. Azerbaijan - The scorched body of a young woman named Maryam was found in Qez Mountain. She had asked for her dowry.
8. July 20, 2021, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province - Asiye Haseli, 24, suffered brain death after being punched by her husband and died after a while.
9. August 1, 2021, Karaj - A 63-year-old woman was killed by her husband.
10. August 6, 2021, Marivan - Monireh Ghaderi, 45, died after she was hit in the head by her husband.
11. August 6, 2021, Sanandaj - Shilan Mandomi was shot and killed by her husband.
12. August 24, 2021, Karaj - A 43-year-old woman fell into a coma due to a blow to the head by her husband and died two months later.
13. September 11, 2021, Mahallat - A 32-year-old woman was shot dead by her husband.
14. September 19, 2021, Lahijan - A 70-year-old woman was killed by her husband and buried in the yard.
15. October 25, 2021, Silveh village, W. Azerbaijan - Golaleh Dehar suffered brain death after being beaten by her husband.
16. On October 31, 2021, Urmia - Fatemeh Rasouli, pregnant, was set alight and burned to death by her husband after the ultrasound test showed that her sixth child would be a girl.
17. November 1, 2021, Kermanshah - Asiye Akbari, 35, and the mother of two, was hit on the head by a stick and killed by her husband.
18. On November 1, 2021, Ilam - Z.R. was stabbed by her husband.
19. November 2, 2021, Sonqar - A woman was killed by her husband with the blow of a hard object.
20. November 3, 2021, Shiraz - A woman, 33, was murdered by her husband.
21. November 13, 2021, Jahrom - A woman was stabbed by her 64-year-old husband.
22. November 23, 2021, Kermanshah - A man shot and killed his wife.
23. December 2021, Malayer - Sahar Norouzi, a mother of two young children, was set on fire by her husband.
24. December 2021 - A young man strangled his sister because she was living alone and had become addicted.
25. December 2021, a village in Urmia - A woman was murdered by her husband due to family disputes.
26. December 1, 2021, Rasht, N. Iran - A man killed his wife.
27. December 6, 2021, Fars Province - A woman was murdered by her husband.
28. February 2, 2022, Tehran - A young woman, mother of a 6-year-old boy, was killed by her husband. She fainted after being hit on the head and her husband strangled her with a scarf.
29. February 18, 2022, Ilam Province - Tahereh Shafiei, 22, was murdered by her father-in-law.
30. February 18, 2022, Kermanshah - Fatemeh Sameti was killed by her husband using a knife and an ax.

Child Marriage, the Devastating End of Childhood

Child marriage in Iran is among the most evident examples of violence against women, which has become increasingly rampant under the mullahs' misogynistic rule. Early and child marriages do not have cultural roots in Iran. They have turned into a social catastrophe due to the policies of the mullahs' regime.

- With the official minimum age of marriage for girls standing at 13, Iran ranks second globally, only after Guinea, where the minimum age for marriage is 12. (The state-run Setareh Sobh – November 23, 2021)
- On the ground, little girls are forced into marriage at the age of 9 with the consent of their father or paternal grandfather, with the approval of a religious judge. The Iranian regime has refused to increase the age of girls' marriage, and ban, or criminalize early marriages.



Child marriage is a flagrant violence against women

100 girls under 15 years are married every 24 hours

500,000 – 600,000
An Iranian Judiciary official acknowledged that the marriages of between 500,000 to 600,000 children are officially registered every year.

Child marriages
31,379 girls under 14 married in 2020
9,753 girls between 10 to 14 married in spring 2021

70% DIVORCE
70% of child marriages end up in divorce
131 girls under 14 years got divorced in spring 2021
2,650 girls between 14 and 19 got divorced in spring 2021

Child mothers
1,346 births from girls under 15 years old in 2020
16,000 births from 15-19 year-old mothers in 2020
969 births from 10-14 year-old mothers in spring 2021
44,896 births from 15-19 year-old mothers in spring 2021

- The abolition of the UN 2030 Education Document is among one of the first measures Ebrahim Raisi approved after taking office. Instead, his government adopted the National Document on the Rights of Children and Adolescents that explicitly supports the marriage of children under 13 years of age. Based on this document marriage of children under the age set by the regime's law is not "illegal."

- In addition, rampant poverty—an outcome of the clerical regime's plunder of the national wealth—is another reason for the prevalence of child marriages in Iran. A nurse who worked in a Tehran suburb hospital said that she witnessed 12 to 17-year-old girls giving birth every day. She added that these girls' parents were impoverished. Due to extreme poverty,

these families wed their daughters for one million Tomans. (The state-run jahanesanat.ir newspaper - August 30, 2021)

- The clerical regime has contributed to the annual number of child marriages, particularly girls under the age of 13 in Iran, by increasing the amount of marriage loans. (The state-run ILNA news agency – July 6, 2021)
- The Iranian authorities' lack of attendance to the phenomenon of child marriages does not stop there. It has already led to the emergence of child mothers and child widows. Seventy percent (70%) of child marriages end in divorce (The state-run ROKNA news agency – July 27, 2021).

2021 statistics

- Presently, 100 marriages of under-15 girls are registered every 24 hours. It is estimated that by the end of the year, some 40,000 early marriages take place this year. (The state-run ArmanMelli newspaper – July 27, 2021)
- The National Statistics Center announced that 9,753 young girls between 10 and 14 were married in spring 2021. The same age group gave birth to 969 infants in the same period. The number of child marriages in spring 2021 increased by 32% compared to the same period last year. (The state-run ISNA news agency – November 22, 2021)
- Between March and October 2021, there were 791 childbirths among mothers of the 10-14 age group, according to the report of the National Organization for Civil Registration on October 14, 2021.
- The NSC also recorded 31,379 marriages among girls in the 10-14 age group and 1,364 births from under-15 mothers throughout 2020. (The state-run ROKNA news agency – August 20, 2021).
- Child marriages increased by 12% in 2020 compared to 2019. The average rate of child marriages in Iran is about 30% above the world average. (The state-run ROKNA news agency - July 25, 2021)
- The officially announced statistics are the tip of the iceberg of statistics related to child marriage. The actual number of children married is 5 to 6 times the announced numbers. (The state-run ROKNA News Agency – July 25, 2021).

Child marriages in provinces

The deprived province of Sistan and Baluchestan in southeastern Iran tops the list of provinces with the highest numbers of child marriages.

- The Department of Registry of Sistan and Baluchestan Province, southeastern Iran, announced it had registered 18 marriages of young girls between 5 and 9 years old since March 2021. (The state-run ROKNA news agency – January 4, 2022)

- The Department has also registered 2,405 marriages of girls between 10 and 14 years old during the same period. In Sistan and Baluchestan province, which has the highest child marriage statistics in Iran, 290 infants were born to mothers between 10 and 14 years old from March to November 2021. (The state-run Setareh Sobh daily, November 23, 2021)

- After Sistan and Baluchestan, the five provinces of Khuzestan, Khorasan Razavi, Golestan, Kerman and East Azerbaijan had the highest number of children born to mothers aged 10 to 14 between March and September 2021. (The state-run salamatnews.com, Telegram channel, October 16, 2021)

- In Ahvaz, the capital of Khuzestan province, one to three marriages under 15 are registered daily. Many families in this city have lost their source of income due to water shortages, poverty, and inflation. In such circumstances, when families cannot feed their children, the girl child is the first to get rid of. (The state-



run Fararu.com, January 2, 2022)

It should be noted that the Iranian regime is not transparent in publishing statistics. As mentioned above, the published statistics are the tip of the iceberg of child marriages in Iran.

- Ali Kazemi, a legal advisor to the clerical regime's Judiciary, had previously acknowledged that "an average of 500,000 to 600,000 Iranian girls under the age of 14 get married every year." (The state-run Entekhab.ir newspaper – March 4, 2019) Considering the spread of poverty and the clerical regime's policies in promoting child marriages, the actual figures are estimated to be much higher for the present time.

The lack of will to adopt the bill to prevent violence against Iranian women

Last year, her father's atrocious murder of Romina Ashrafi outraged the public in Iran and the world. This year, the world was shocked by the images of a man parading his wife's head in the streets of Ahvaz. Yet, the bill to prevent violence against women has not been adopted despite ten years of foot-dragging. After holding the bill for 16 months, the Rouhani government eventually submitted it to the parliament for final approval on January 24, 2021. Today, the bill remains on the shelf more than a year later. And even the beheading of a 17-year-old mother brought no urgency to the parliament. So, the women of Iran will continue to experience the steady spread of arbitrary violence against them, whether in public or at home. The government's failure to punish the assailants encourage the patriarchal culture. The mullahs' move to introduce a bill to ensure women's security against violence was a theatrical measure to act as a safety valve and prevent the outburst of fury of Iranian women and people. At the same time, it served the regime's objectives on the international stage. For the Iranian people, especially women, it is evident that the mullahs' misogynistic regime can never pass a plan for women's interests and rights. Why? Because it

has been founded on suppression of women, is the main sponsor of violence against them, and has institutionalized violence against women in its laws. The Khomeini regime launched its authoritarian rule by forcing women to observe the mandatory hijab. In the same spirit, loosening the oppressive chains of Iranian women would immediately shatter their repressive reign over society. It makes sense that ten years is not enough time to pass the bill to protect women against violence. But when it comes to the Population Growth Plan, which further marginalizes women and tramples their remaining rights, it hardly takes a month to pass it into a law. The logical conclusion is that there is no will in the clerical regime to adopt the bill to prevent violence against women. It makes sense why the regime has not signed the CEDAW or other relevant international conventions.



Enforcing the mandatory Hijab, a systematic violence against women in Iran

Throughout last year, the clerical regime's various agencies undertook measures to impose further restrictions on women by tightening the rules on mandatory Hijab. Various regime officials called for unofficial forces to engage in suppression of women who defy the Hijab rules.

- Ebrahim Raisi ordered government officials on December 26, 2021, to implement the ratification of the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution regarding Hijab and Chastity. He stressed that the officials should not lose "even one day."
- On December 30, Ensieh KhazAli, deputy for women and family affairs, told representatives of women in Qom province, "We have many laws on Hijab. Unfortunately, we have not implemented them to this date. Therefore, the government will get decisively involved to enforce these laws." She added, "We must take up arms in the cultural field to transfer our genuine Islamic identity to the young people."
- The head of the Islamic Council of Qom declared, "We need more than ever to adhere to the principle of promoting virtue



and forbidding vice." He added that this should not be considered a "government duty" but a "public duty." (The state-run Mehr news agency – December 20, 2021)

- The clerical regime has opened a new school giving licenses to revive the promotion of virtue and prohibition of evil. Mehran Samadi, the commander of the Virtue Promotion and Evil Prohibition Garrison, said, "Those who wish to be

among the groups who give warnings (on the streets) can choose their major and issue of concern and enroll via a website called "meidan-e motalebeh." Within ten days, they can receive legal and official licenses to warn the public officially." (The state-run Jomhuri newspaper – October 18, 2021)

Stepped-up violence to impose the mandatory Hijab

- On August 8, 2021, a driver ran over two women in Urmia under the pretext of warning them to observe their hijab. People took the two women to an emergency. One of them was seriously injured. (The state-run ILNA news agency - August 9, 2021)
- In October, a video clip circulated in social media outraged the Iranian public over the brutal apprehension of a young woman and treating her like a criminal. Plainclothes agents in Tehran dragged the woman by her neck. They pulled her inside a van belonging to the Greater Tehran's State Security Force. At the same time, a female agent was pulling her hair, and a male agent was forcing her inside the van. To justify his agents' conduct and quell the public's outrage, Hossein Ashtari, the general commander of the State Security Force, said, "The arrest of that woman was not related to Hijab, and the agents had an arrest warrant!" (The state-run Setareh Sobh newspaper – October 18, 2021) While such a treatment is not acceptable even for criminals.

**Interior Minister:
If we were to receive a blow,
it is going to be from women**

The state news agencies reported on December 28 that a woman had been arrested for confronting a mullah who had "promoted virtue." The mullah had hit her with his cane and told her to cover up herself. Instead of being passive, the woman confronted the assailant mullahs by throwing his turban to the ground and trampling it. The video clip of this confrontation became viral on social media and met public acclaim. Another state-backed mullah reacted by tweeting, "If we do not take this image and this warning seriously, and if we deceive ourselves, we will shortly witness the next stages." On December 9, in the first nationwide gathering of general directors of women and family affairs of provincial governorates, the regime's Interior Minister, Ahmad Vahidi, said, "If the Revolution (i.e., the clerical regime) were to receive a blow, it would be from women." (The state-run Entekhab.ir – December 19, 2021)

Disempowerment of Women in Iran

The mullahs' regime is moving toward women's disempowerment. This is a fact that the Women's Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran has repeatedly emphasized over the years. In Iran, there is no trace of reinforcing the protection and respect of human rights and women's fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, which are universal, inviolable, interdependent, and interconnected. Additional rights that have been suppressed include ensuring that everyone has the right to equal participation and assistance; enjoys economic, social, cultural, and political development; is granted first rights to promotion and protection; and can fully realize their civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights as individuals. The reality is that because of the Iranian regime's inhumane policies, imprudence and mismanagement, and systematic looting and corruption, the Iranian people have become increasingly poor over the years. The middle class has completely disappeared. Experts are unanimous that the face of poverty in Iran is feminine.

Poverty spreads rapidly in Iran

winter

The poverty line, winter 2021: 10 million Tomans

spring

The poverty line, spring 2021: 12 million Tomans

summer

The poverty line, summer 2021: 14 million Tomans

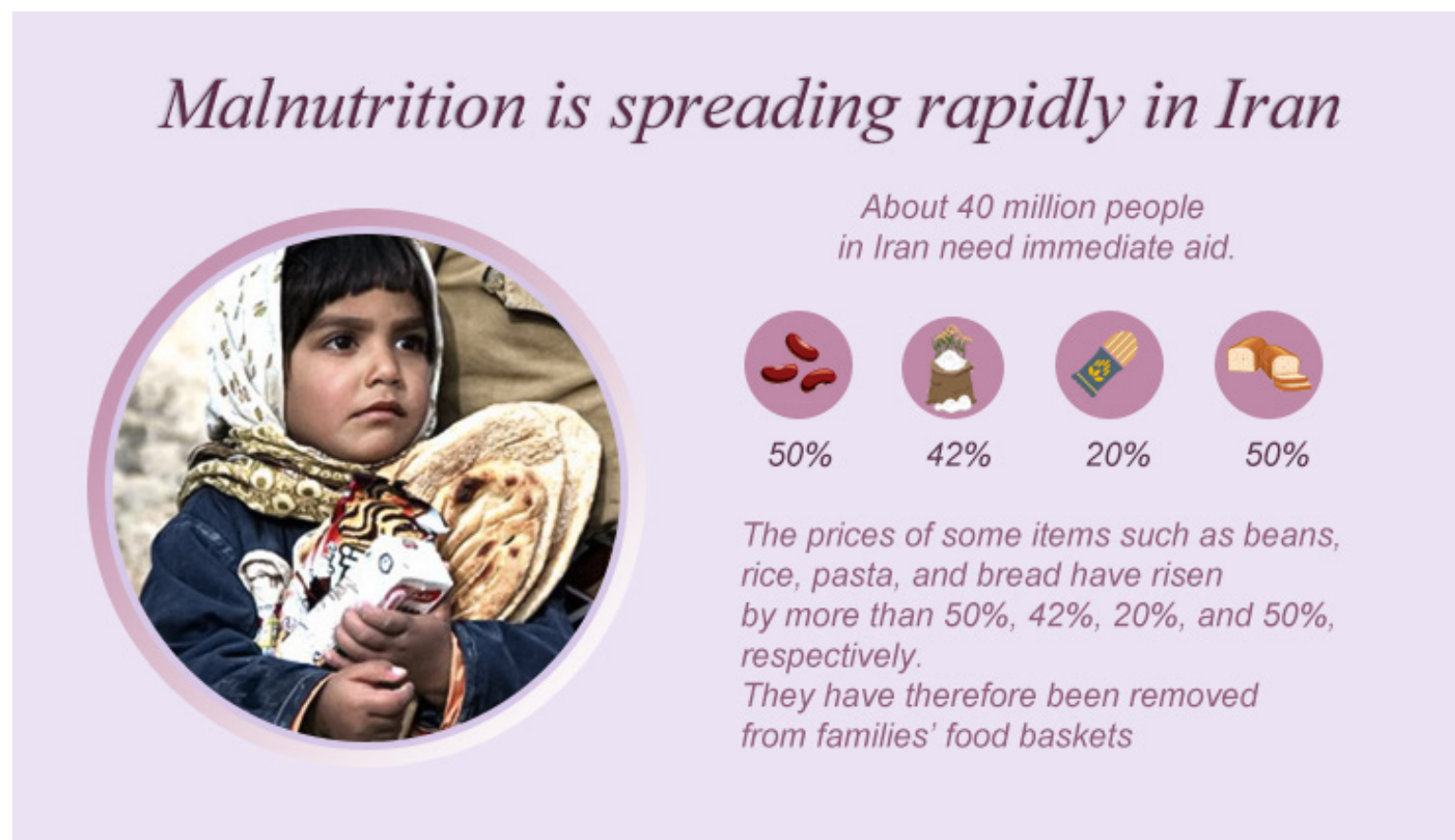


Experts agree on the feminine face of poverty in Iran

- Last year, the poverty line in Iran was 10 million Tomans per month. (The state-run Tabnak.ir, September 25, 2020) At the beginning of March 2021, the poverty line increased to 12 million Tomans and had reached 14 million Tomans by the summer of the same year. Within 4 months, the price of housing and basic goods in Iran increased between 10% - 15%, leading to an increase in the poverty line. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, July 26, 2021)
- According to official statistics, the population below the absolute poverty line, which reached 15% from 2014 to 2018, increased to 30% and doubled between 2018 and 2020.
- Available statistics from 2020 show that approximately 32% of Iranian households (estimated at 9.5 million households or 38 million people) were below the poverty line.
- The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Welfare published an official report of the poverty line for the first time, indicating that poverty line grew by 38% in 2021 compared to 2020. This concludes that 36 million Iranians live below the poverty line. (The state-run Salamatnews.com, August 22, 2021)
- This statistic is from 2021, when inflation was reported at 36.4%. Notably, in 2021, the inflation rate exceeded 44% in June. According to this source, one in three Iranians lives below the poverty line.

Common malnutrition

- The most important factor in the increase in the poverty line in 2021 was high inflation in both the food and housing sectors. (The state-run Salamatnews.com, August 22, 2021)
- Due to inflation in the food sector, people no longer have food safety and cannot purchase standard staples to fulfill their daily caloric needs.
- A report in July 2021 compared prices to those of the previous year and found that prices of staples had increased: grains above 50%; rice almost 42%; pasta over 20%; and bread more than 50%. All these were, therefore, excluded from the family nutrition basket. (The state-run Tejaratnews.com, September 22, 2021)
- A regime official stated on state-run television, "About 40 million people of the country's population need immediate and instant assistance." (The state-run Fars news agency, October 23, 2021) The conditions are such that families cannot even provide one piece of bread and eggs on their table.
- The emergence of a new trend called "ditch hunters" suggests that many people, particularly women, the homeless, and drug addicts, dig into trash bins and city ditches to find food.
- Last year, 2.4 million Iranians, or 612,000 families, dropped below the poverty line due to high medical costs, as reported by the Iranian regime's Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Welfare. (The state-run Entekhab.ir, August 23, 2021)



- The Coronavirus outbreak has congested the queue of women heads of household who require pensions. (The state-run Salamatnews.com, September 18, 2021)
- The welfare authorities have acknowledged that at least 51,000 children lost their parents during the pandemic. (The state-run Salamatnews.com, September 18, 2021)

The housing crisis and its effects on women

The spread of poverty, and the mismanagement, corruption and looting by the mullahs' regime have caused more families to lose everything they have and wander the city streets.

- A director of the Harm Reduction Center describes the situation of families as follows: "During this time, we had many families who have become homeless. The reasons for their homelessness are often financial poverty and poverty-related issues such as unemployment." According to him, in these care centers, the wife and child are forced to separate from the father. (The state-run Khabaronline.ir, December 26, 2021)

- But if the boy is 16-17 years old, he can no longer be kept in women's centers, and because he is under the age of 18, he cannot be admitted to men's centers. Welfare centers also accept mothers and daughters, but separate mothers and sons.
- Another report states that 40% of women who go to the warm shelters are not addicted, only homeless. (The state-run Jomhuri newspaper, March 3, 2021)
- It should be noted that this statistic is related to only four women's shelters out of a total of 20 in Tehran.
- The widespread problem of housing poverty and lack of support and social services for such families has led to the formation of new phenomena, including 7.6 million people living on the outskirts of cemeteries.
- The age of homelessness among Iranian women has reached 15. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, June 6, 2021)
- The number of homeless girls aged 16-18 has increased so dramatically that even the state media writes about them. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, April 21, 2020)
- Homeless women over the age of 60 are also seen in Tehran. (the state-run ROKNA news agency, June 6, 2021)
- A state-run website reported that there are 2,700 homeless women in the city of Ahvaz, the capital of the oil-rich Khuzestan province. (The state-run shahrvandonline.ir, February 15, 2022)
- Being homeless makes Iranian women and girls the first target for all kinds of dangers. Addiction and other social ills become inevitable for them, but there

are other lurking dangers to their lives.

- In January 2021, a 45-year-old homeless woman in Kerman, who had been forced to take refuge in one of the limekilns due to the lack of a shelter, died in a fire. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, January 19, 2021)
- A 15-year-old homeless girl was beheaded in Sirjan, a city in the southern Iranian province of Kerman. While emptying a garbage tank, Sirjan Municipality workers noticed an abnormal-looking heavy plastic bag. It contained the teenage girl's head. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, December 28, 2020)
- The mullahs' regime not only has no solution for the homeless women and girls; with its predatory policies, it is actually increasing their number every day. Videos of the demolition of people's homes across the country and the displacement of women and children are broadcast on social media every week.
- In addition to slum-dwelling and cardboard-sleeping, people taking refuge on roofs, bus stations, and even empty graves and underground holes, have raised the alarm over the housing crisis in Iran's capital and other cities.
- The plight of the "bus sleepers" was first reported by state-run media. Unable to afford rent, the bus sleepers purchase tickets to the end of a bus line. (The state-run Entekhab.ir, January 2, 2022) These impoverished women and their children ride a bus to have a few hours of sleep in a warm place, but they must change their bus at every end station.

Miserable living conditions

Female workers

- At least 3 million women in Iran have informal employment in underground workshops. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, August 1, 2021)
- Nobody oversees the work of underground female workers in Iran. Most of them have a salary of 700 or 800 thousand Tomans per month (\$27.3-\$31.2), which is less than the minimum wage set by the regime's labor laws. These salaries do not cover even a tenth of their livelihoods. If they do not work a single day, they will have nothing to eat.
- One million women lost their jobs within the first 9 months of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The situation of female workers in Iran is not comparable to other groups. They work for meager salaries with no benefits or insurance under harsh, substandard conditions. About 80% of uninsured employees are women. About 80% of uninsured employees are women.
- In Kurdish areas, women are forced to carry heavy equipment or work in construction to support themselves and their families. Carrying freights has become common for women in the border provinces of Kurdistan, West Azerbaijan, and Kermanshah. (The state-run Asriran.com, January 22, 2020)
- Women heads of household, even those who are elderly, are forced

to carry heavy equipment as a means of supporting their families. Even the educated are forced to carry equipment because of the lack of jobs.

- Another arduous task that women take on to earn a living is to work in kilns. These kilns lack safety standards; moreover, the female employees have no contracts, only loosely defined agreements. Workers' salaries are between 100,000 (\$3.902) and 150,000 (\$5.853) Tomans per day, and they are not paid on holidays. Shifts are from 7 am until sunset. Despite the long working hours, the women cannot support themselves and their families. They must pay transportation costs, which are extremely high given the commuting distances from the city to factories.
- "There are no jobs in our area," said a female worker in a brick factory. "I had to work here. I have a lumbar disc

myself now. We stay in the workshop dormitories for 6 months of the year. We are deprived of safe drinking water, baths, and sanitary facilities. This has made our children sick," she added. (The state-run ILNA news agency, April 12, 2021)

- Labor laws do not apply to female workers. The prohibition on women working in difficult and dangerous jobs, staffing night shifts, and carrying heavy loads is one of the laws that is being ignored.
- In a heartbreaking accident in November 2021, a female textile worker, Marzieh Taherian, lost her life when a spinning machine sucked in her head. The day before the tragic incident, Marzieh complained about the hardships of working at night. "We have to take a night shift once a week, but we do not dare say anything," said one female worker. (The state-run Shahrara newspaper, December 12, 2021)

At least 3 million women are employed in underground workshops in Iran

- One million women lost their jobs in the first nine months of the Coronavirus pandemic
- Some 80% of uninsured employees are women
- The salary of most female workers in Iran is only 700,000 or 800,000 Tomans (\$27-30) per month



Nurses

More than 80% of nurses in Iran are women.

- Of the approximately 145,000 nurses working in in Bed Management, 136,000 were infected with COVID-19. About 140 lost their lives. (The state-run Jahanesanat.ir newspaper, September 11, 2021)

- The current global standard is four nurses per bed. But in some provinces and cities, reports indicate that a single nurse manages up to 25 patients. (The state-run Khorasan newspaper, September 16, 2021)

- Nurses in Iran earn 5 million Tomans (\$ 195.114) at best, even though they work an average of 10 to 12 hours per day. Sometimes they are required to work as many as 20 hours in a single shift. (The state-run Armanmeli newspaper, October 14, 2020)

- The Iranian regime refuses to hire nurses on an official basis as a means of avoiding paying full salaries. Most Iranian nurses receive 89-day temporary contracts, for which the monthly compensation is 2 million and 4 million Tomans (\$78 -156) – less than the minimum official salary. These contract nurses lack benefits, insurance, and job security. (The state-run ILNA news agency, January 4, 2021)

- Monthly receipts do not comply with legal requirements. For example, if a nurse's monthly merit pay is 800 Tomans (\$ 0.031), the nurse actually receives only 50 to 100 Tomans (\$0.001 - 0.003) per month.

- Nurses are among those across society who are protesting. They object to being denied the right to job security and protest the inequality of wages and benefits.

- In some cases, nurses are terminated with no regard to their length of service or the work they have done. There is often no financial settlement, including salary payments. (The state-run ILNA news agency, January 2, 2021)

- Low wages and long working hours are among the factors that cause nurses to emigrate. Nurses' migration has increased by 200 percent to 300 percent compared to past years. (The state-run Armanmeli newspaper, January 25, 2022)

- The main reasons for nurses' migration are the lack of timely remuneration for work during the Coronavirus pandemic, carelessness in the field of human resource retention, and lack of recruitment of 89-day staff. (The state-run Armanmeli newspaper, January 25, 2022)

- Statistics published by government officials in the spring of 2021 showed that 500 nurses leave the country every month due to low salaries in Iran. This migration has occurred over the past "one to one and a half years" and the reasons have been "Coronavirus conditions, livelihood issues, and economic problems." (The state-run ILNA news agency, April 17, 2021)

Out of some 145,000 nurses, 136,000 contracted the Covid-19, and at least 140 lost their lives



- *Contrary to the standard 1:4 nurse-patient ratio, every Iranian nurse must attend to 25 patients*
- *Despite long working hours of 10 to 20 hours a day, the salary of a nurse is at best 5 million Tomans (\$192)*
- *Many nurses and hospital staff do not receive benefits for a long time, and some are fired without paying their unpaid salaries*
- *Nurses' migration has increased by 200 to 300 percent*

Women heads of households

Of the **5 million** women heads of households in Iran, only **1.3 million** receive meager support services

Every year, **120,000** households are added to the population of female headed households



Women heads of households

- Of the 5 million women heads household in Iran, only 1.3 million receive meager support services, while "all of them have no income. (The state-run Asriran.com, January 25, 2022)
- The number of these women is increasing daily and they cannot sustain their occupations." (The state-run Mehr news agency, July 18, 2021)
- On an annual basis, 120,000 households are added to the women heads of household. (The state-run Mehr news agency, July 18, 2021)
- Many women heads of household do not have fixed government salaries, and more than half are partially or fully illiterate. One-third of literate women heads of household only have primary education. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, September 20, 2021)
- According to official statistics, which reflect only a percentage of the reality, 52% of the 5 million women heads of household lack insurance and pensions, and 38% of them are among the three lowest groups in society.
- In media propaganda, officials representing the clerical regime claim that some 13 agencies, all with specific duties, are responsible for the affairs of women heads of household. However, the reality is that women heads of household have been

left without the slightest social support.

- One example of government "support" is food baskets of 100,000 Tomans to alleviate malnutrition among nursing mothers. However, given inflation and current prices, this meager allowance does little to improve the lives of women heads of household.
- Another example is the tiny pensions (700,000 Tomans) that government agencies, such as the Committee for Relief and the Welfare Organization, offer this vulnerable and oppressed group. Yet the organization is in no way accountable for the women's living expenses. (The state-run salamatnews.com, February 1, 2022)
- The discrimination against women in the job sector adds pressure on women heads of household, who must cover their families' expenses. As a result, most women heads of household are forced to take on menial jobs that barely qualify as paid work – peddling, porter-carrying, cleaning houses, among others.
- According to a published report, at least 30,659 women heads of household have an incurable disease. (The state-run ILNA news agency, August 9, 2021)
- Another report reveals that 7,818 women heads of household have physical disabilities. (The state-run ROKNA news agency, September 20, 2021)
- Under these catastrophic circumstances, the children of women heads of household are also forced to work to help the family survive.
- Sistan and Baluchestan has 93,000 women heads of household – the highest percentage (20%) in Iran. Given that the province is among the top four in Iran for child marriage, it stands to reason that many girls under the age of 20 add to the number of women heads of household each year. (The state-run Mostaghel newspaper, January 4, 2022)
- Many women who live in villages or informal settlements (slums) lack financial security. With no university degree or marketable skills, they have difficulty finding suitable jobs and thus cannot provide for their families' primary necessities.
- A woman head of household in Qasem Abad, Zahedan, was beaten after her house was destroyed by municipality agents. When asked if she had visited the municipality, Hajar responded, "I am the only breadwinner for the family and I have a 20-year-old son. My husband is unemployed. How could we possibly get there? The rent to Zahedan municipality is 20,000-30,000 Tomans and we do not have it. We cannot pay for electricity. There is not even a school near our house for our children. (The state-run Arman newspaper, September 23, 2021)
- In another example, an elderly Baluch woman suffered a heart attack when municipal authorities and police forces in Zahedan, under the pretext of illegal construction, destroyed her home.

The Iranian regime's misogynous measures over the past year

As poverty rages across society, the face of poverty becomes feminine. Thousands of women and children survive by eating garbage while the regime's parliament and other state institutions seek to limit women's job opportunities, minimize their sources of income, and marginalize them more than any other time.

- With the appointment of Ensieh Khazali as the Deputy Minister of Women and Family Affairs in Raisi's government, even previous hollow promises with regard to women were completely silenced. Khazali has no specific executive or operational plan to address the status of women. (The state-run Jomleh newspaper, October 26, 2021)

- Khazali defended women's teleworking in her first press conference, saying, "women's teleworking is in the interest of both women and the government." To the contrary, some experts and activists believe that "the implementation of any plan to force women to work remotely can be considered a kind of gender segregation." (The state-run ROKNA News Agency, September 22, 2021)

- Women's teleworking increasingly pushes them into the corners of their homes and isolates them socially.

- Over the past year, instead of addressing the people's livelihood and economic problems, lawmakers have passed plans that close even the smallest loopholes in women's business and further deprive them of their rights. (The state-run Aftab-e Yazd newspaper, December 25, 2021)

- Among the approved plans was the "Bill for the Protection of the Rights of Cyberspace Users," which was approved in a closed session of the parliament on July 28, 2021. The bill violates the rights of Instagram and WhatsApp users by restricting free access to the Internet.

- Another plan passed against women's rights in the regime's parliament was the Population Growth Plan. On March 16, 2021, the regime's parliament approved the "Comprehensive Plan of Population and Upgrading of Families" by 161 votes in favor. In just one month, the commissions reviewing the plan held 19 meetings in this regard.

- Compare this to the bill to prevent violence against women. After 10 years of foot-dragging, the deficient bill has stagnated in Parliament for 14 months, despite the harrowingly increased rate of



violence against and murder of women.

- With its false economic promises, such as loans for young couples and subsidized pregnancy costs, the Population Growth Plan promotes the violation of women's rights in society.
- The plan's terms, which will soon be enforced as law, have severely restricted abortion and pregnancy screenings.
- The terms also trample on women's right to reproduce, choose to bear children, determine the number of children they have and the time between births, have access to information, and use contraceptives and sexual health medications – all rights recognized by the United Nations.

- United Nations human rights experts said the population growth plan adopted by the clerical regime in early November was in "clear contravention of international law."

- The same human rights experts called on the Iranian regime to repeal the new law, stating that it "severely restricts access to abortion, contraception, voluntary sterilization services and related information, in direct violation of women's human rights under international law."

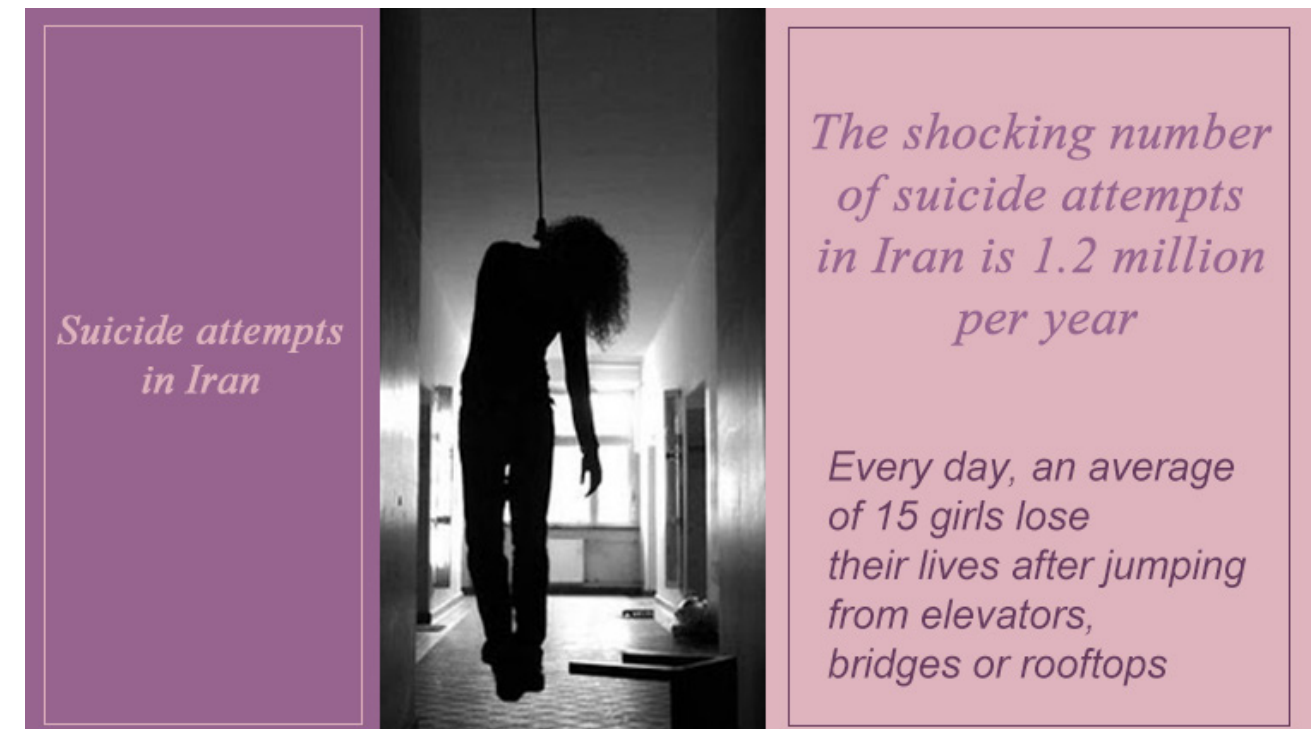
Widespread poverty behind Iran's social harms

The spread of poverty and the feminization of poverty in Iran have had far-reaching consequences in society.

- Iranian women have been forced to resort to fake (informal) jobs such as street peddling, harmful jobs such as garbage collection and border couriers, homelessness and sleeping in boxes, buses and graves, selling body organs, leaving infants on the street or selling them, prostitution, addiction, and suicide, among others.
- Buying and selling infants has found a lucrative market in Iran due to poverty. Child traders are now selling children via social media platforms.
- In one case, the Deputy Prosecutor of Mashhad announced the arrest of six people who had confessed to buying and selling 25 infants. (The state-run Fararu website, December 16, 2021)
- Renting wombs was not common in Iran, but today, due to the spread of poverty, there are women in most provinces who are willing to rent their wombs. Most of these women are in dire financial need.
- The price of a rented womb, once close to 20 million Tomans (\$780), has quadrupled in the last 2 years and is now 80 million Tomans (\$3,121). (The state-run Sobh-e Emrouz daily, December 6, 2021)

Suicides

- According to the Deputy Head of Social Affairs at Iran's Welfare Organization, 41,000 people die due to suicide every year. "Many people may be hospitalized after attempting suicide and these cases will never be registered," he added. (The state-run Khabaronline.ir, July 21, 2021) These figures only include those who lost their lives after committing suicide.
- Usually, the total number of attempted suicides are 30 times the number of suicides that lead to death. According to these figures, the shocking number of suicides in Iran is equivalent to 1.2 million annually. Unsuccessful suicide statistics are usually not widely reported, and the real statistics are higher than what is officially announced. (The state-run ILNA news agency, June 8, 2020)
- Every day, 15 girls on average die after throwing themselves out of elevators or off bridges and rooftops. Most suicides occur among those aged 12 to 18. More girls commit suicide than boys. (The state-run Jahanesanat.ir newspaper, October 4, 2021)



- Among the suicides that made headlines, last year was the serial suicide of hospital residents. According to official statistics, about 11 residents died by suicide in 2021. (The state-run ISNA news agency, November 3, 2021)



- Hospital residents, like medical assistants who work in Iranian hospitals, are mostly under the supervision of medical sciences universities. The mental and physical problems of these young doctors increase due to severe lack of manpower, high work pressure, working consecutive shifts, going several days without sleep, 89-day contracts, low salaries (which amount to 2 million Tomans) lack of insurance, non-payment of minimum wages, being away from their family and children, the influx of people to hospitals, and the death of patients. (The state-run Armanmeli newspaper, May 5, 2021)
- According to a sociologist and university professor, one of the main reasons for the increase in suicides in Iran is the people's distrust of officials.



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Women's Committee
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