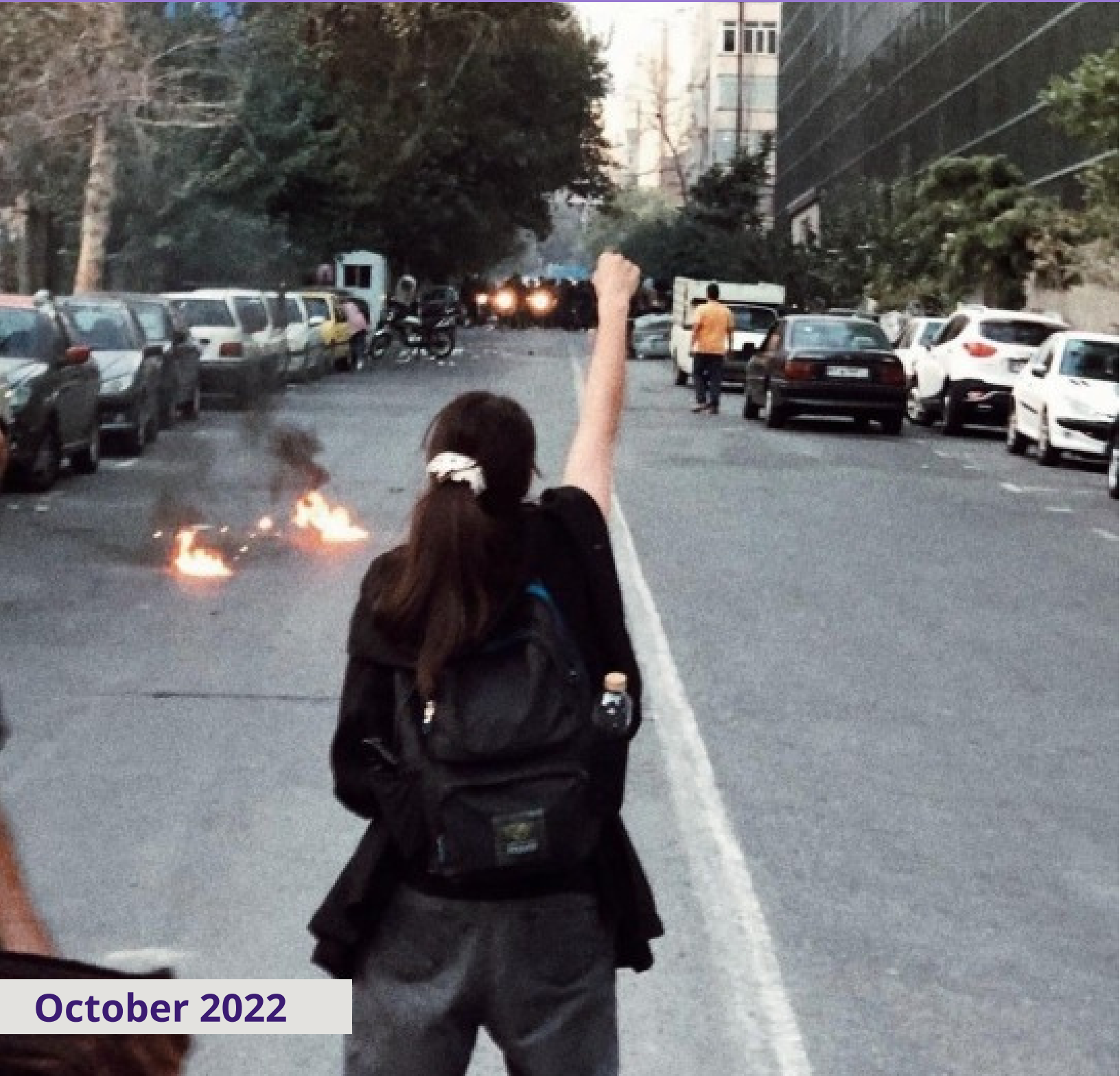


# IRAN PROTESTS

## FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



October 2022

## FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



Nearly a month into nationwide protests following the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, and the response of the state has turned more violent, with nearly 200 killed and thousands of protesters arrested. The violence used in ethnic minority areas, such as the provinces of Kurdistan and Sistan-Baluchestan, where the state has traditionally employed a securitized approach, has been much more severe. Videos attest to how some of the streets of various cities in Kurdistan Province, including Sanandaj and Saqez, have turned into what resembles a war zone, overrun by military equipment and armed security. In the city of Zahedan, in Sistan-Baluchestan province, men angry about the death of Mahsa and also demanding accountability for the alleged rape of a teenage Baluchi girl by police, began to march toward the Zahedan police station following Friday prayers. Shockingly they were met with gunfire and according to reports nearly 90 were killed. Many were shot in the back as they ran away from the gunfire. The nation has also been moved by the brutal death of a number of young Iranian protesters, especially several teenage girls, such as Nika Shakarami (16) and Sarina Esmailzadeh (16).

Thousands of prisoners have been arrested and authorities are slow to release them on bail. The high numbers of protesters detained is concerning, as prisons, many makeshift structures, are overcrowded, with no ventilation, poor sanitation and lack proper facilities. According to reports, some prisoners are being transferred to prison with serious injuries, including pellet wounds and there is no capacity or willingness on the part of authorities to tend to injuries within detention centers. Many prisoners face violence at time of arrest.

During this time, hundreds of human rights defenders (HRDs), journalists, political, civic, and student activists have been targeted and arrested in a preemptive effort to quell protests. Some HRDs have been forcibly abducted, while others have faced violence during arrest. Because women continue to be present in protests in high numbers and because their demands continue to be central to protests, feminists, women human rights defenders (WHRDs), female journalists, and female student activists have been especially targeted for arrest.

# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



In this report, **the fourth in a series**, FEMENA has compiled a list of detained WHRDs based on credible reports, including news reports or social media posts from trusted individuals, family members and colleagues. We recognize numbers of those detained are higher than what has been documented in our reports. We also anticipate that these numbers will grow.

However, It is especially important to compile lists early on, in order to highlight the arrest of lesser known WHRDs and activists. In this way, international human rights organizations can be aware of arrests and remain committed to following up on the cases of WHRDs in the weeks and months to come.

A few WHRDs have been released on bail. The release process, however, is extremely slow. It should be noted that those being released will in all likelihood face charges and sentencing in the future. Also, some of the WHRDs arrested in the aftermath of protests, already had been sentenced to long prison terms and were awaiting implementation. It is likely that they will not be released until their existing prison terms are served.

**FEMENA** will continue to update the list of detained WHRDs to the extent possible to include names of additional WHRDs and activists arrested or info on those released.

We urge international human rights organizations and UN mechanisms to commit to following up on the cases of these defenders and pressing the Iranian authorities to not only release rights defenders and protesters, but to ensure their wellbeing and safety while in detention.

# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



**Goshin Mohamadian**

**Goshin Mohamadian**, a women's rights activist, filmmaker and a member of Jivano organization in Kurdistan was arrested on Sep 19, 2022 and is currently in prison.

**Soraya Khedri**

**Soraya Khedri**, WHRD and a civil society activist in Sanandaj, was arrested on September 20, 2022, by the intelligence forces at her home. It is unclear where she has been detained.



**Fatemeh Sepehri**

**Fatemeh Sepehri**, a political activist, was arrested in Mashhad on September 21, 2022. Sepehri was arrested previously in June 2019, along with 13 other women after signing a letter urging Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei to resign and was imprisoned for nine months. Her husband was killed during the eight-year Iran-Iraq war.

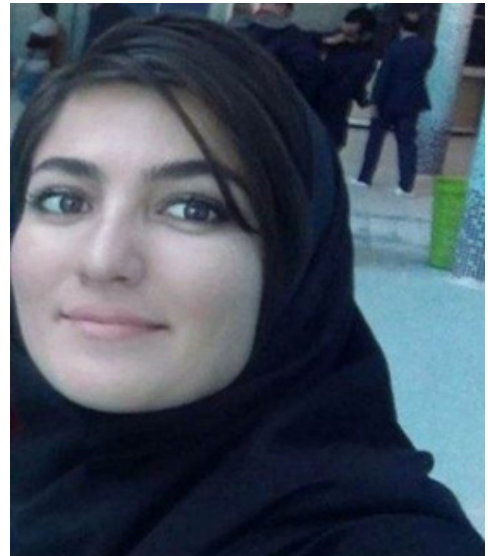




# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Samira Alinejad

**Samira Alinejad**, a journalist and WHRD in Sirjan, was arrested on September 21, 2022. "Sirjan Ravi" reporter Samira Alinejad was summoned to the police station after her phone was recorded on the street while reporting on the protests. She was then transferred to Sirjan prison.



## Hoda Tohidi

**Hoda Tohidi**, a WHRD and civil society activist, was arrested on September 22, 2022, by security forces who raided her home in Tehran. She was transferred to Ward 209 in Evin prison soon after her arrest.

## Monireh Mohammadi

**Monireh Mohammadi**, a WHRD from Sanandaj was arrested by the IRGC forces on September 23, 2022. She has been transferred to an unknown location since then.



# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Somayeh Ebrahimi

**Somayeh Ebrahimi**, a WHRD and environmental activist, was arrested on September 25, 2022 by the security forces. It is unclear where she is being held.



## Gelavizh Tahmasebi

**Gelavizh Tahmasebi**, a 39 year old WHRD and civil society advocate, was arrested on September 25, 2022 by the security forces. It is unclear where she is being held.



## Kiana Karimpour

**Kiana Karimpour**, a WHRD and theater actress was arrested on September 26, 2022, during a protest in Tehran and was transferred to Qarchak Varamin Prison. Later, in a phone call to her family, Kiana informed them that the arrest had been violent. She said she had been severely beaten by the police, and that her body was covered with lots of bruises.



# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



**Nasrin Hasani**

**Nasrin Hasani**, WHRD and journalist from Bojnourd, was arrested on September 28, 2022. She had been summoned and arrested prior to this by the Bojnord Public and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office.

**Afsaneh Rabiei**

**Afsaneh Rabiei**, a WHRD and an advocate for teacher's rights, was arrested in Tehran. On September 28, 2022, the security forces stormed her home, and after searching through and confiscating her personal belongings, they transferred her to prison. Afsaneh has worked as a teacher for 23 years in Tehran.



**Bayan Azizi**

**Bayan Azizi**, a writer, poet, and human rights researcher, was arrested in Sanandaj on September 29, 2022. She was arrested after being summoned to the intelligence office. Bayan is a Ph.D. student in international law and a human rights researcher who has worked on women's rights and domestic violence for years. **She has since been temporarily released on bail.**





# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



## Leila Mirghaffari

**Leila Mirghaffari**, a WHRD was arrested by the security forces in Tehran on Thursday, September 29, 2022 and was transferred to an unknown location. She was also arrested previously on September 16, 2022, in a demonstration in front of Kasra hospital in Tehran to protest Mahsa Amini's death and was later released. Mirghaffari was also arrested in 2019 and was sentenced to 5 years in prison by branch 15 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court on multiple charges.

Leila's charges included "assembly and collusion and acting against national security," "propaganda against the state," "insulting the founder of the Revolution," and "insulting Ayatollah Khamenei." Also, in 2018, she was sentenced to pay a fine for supporting opponents of mandatory hijab.

## Donya Rad

**Donya Rad**, a journalist and graphic artist, was arrested in Tehran on September 30, 2022. A day before her arrest, in an act of civil disobedience, Donya published a picture of herself in a coffeeshop, having breakfast without wearing the hijab. Her photo quickly went viral and was shared on various social networks. She was arrested in her home in Tehran the next day and was transferred to Ward 209 in Evin prison.

**She was temporarily released on bail on October 9, 2022.**





# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Farideh Nemati

**Farideh Nemati**, a Kurdish WHRD, was arrested in her father's house in Sanandaj on Friday, September 30, 2022, and was transferred to an unknown location.

**She has been temporarily released on bail.**



## Zahra Savarian



**Zahra Savarian**, a WHRD and poet from Abadan, was arrested by the security forces on the street on Saturday, October 1, 2022, and is currently being held in Sepidar prison in Ahvaz. It is not yet clear what charges have been brought against her.

## Safieh Qarabaghi

**Safieh Qarabaghi**, a women's rights activist and journalist, was arrested on October 1, 2022, by the intelligence forces in Zanjan and transferred to an unknown location. She has been frequently summoned for questioning by the intelligence office and judicial institutions, due to her activities in promoting women's rights and defending the rights of ethnic groups living in Iran.

**She has been temporarily released on bail.**



# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Elaheh Ramezani

**Elaheh Ramezani**, a WHRD and Master's student at Tehran University of Art, was arrested by security forces on Saturday Oct 1, 2022. Based on an order from the office of the prosecutor. Elaheh has received a 21 days detention order while her case is under investigations. She has been under interrogations since her arrest and has been transferred to Gonbad Kavous prison.



## Bahar Aslani

**Bahar Aslani**, a WHRD and journalist, was arrested by security forces in her home in Tehran on October 2, 2022. Bahar has reportedly been transferred to Ward 209 in Evin prison. She has been suffering from asthma, and her health has deteriorated since her arrest. Bahar is 42 years old and studied photography at the Tehran University of Arts. In 2002, Aslani traveled to Nimroz province of Afghanistan to photograph a Makaki refugee camp and held a photo exhibition titled "Once Upon A Time; Afghanistan" in Tehran and Zanjan. In her photographic work, Bahar documents women and contemporary art in Iran.

# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Neda Naji

**Neda Naji**, a WHRD and labor rights activist, was arrested on October 2, 2022, in her home after security forces raided her home at 10:00 pm. Naji was also arrested and detained in Qarchak Prison in Varamin after attending a peaceful protest on International Labor Day on May 1, 2019, and was later sentenced to 5.5 years in prison.



## Bahareh Hedayat

**Bahareh Hedayat**, a prominent WHRD and political activist, was arrested on Monday, October 3, 2022. Her lawyer announced that the security forces arrested her in a violent raid and broke the door to her apartment without presenting a search or arrest warrant. Bahareh, one of the most influential student activists in Iran for the past decade, has been arrested and imprisoned many times.



Bahareh was previously arrested and sentenced to prison following the contested presidential elections in 2009. She was released after serving 7 years in prison. In 2021, she was arrested again after attending a peaceful demonstration to protest the IRGC's missile attack on the Ukrainian plane, and was later sentenced to 4 years in prison by the revolutionary court. Bahareh Hedayat was on temporary release on bail and working on her Master's thesis. After completing her thesis, she was supposed to present herself to the court to serve her 4-year prison sentence.



## FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



### Atefeh Chaharmahalian

**Atefeh Chaharmahalian**, a WHRD, poet and former member of the board of directors for the Iranian Writers Association, was arrested by the security forces on October 3, 2022. Atefeh has been advocating for children's rights and has published several books. Atefeh Chaharmahalian was born in Khuzestan, and has a bachelor's degree in sociology and a master's degree in urban management from Tehran University.

Her first poetry collection, "Paper Lover," was published in 1981. Chaharmahalian published four other collections of poems after "Paper Lover." Another book, "Collective Paradise" is the product of nearly four years of Atefeh's work with the underprivileged children of Darvazeh Ghar, who are now engaged in writing stories.

### Golaleh Vatandoost

**Golaleh Vatandoost**, a prominent Kurdish WHRD and human rights lawyer in Marivan, was arrested on October 3, 2022, and is currently being held at the Juvenile correctional center in Sanandaj. Golaleh has frequently faced judicial harassment and has been summoned and interrogated by the intelligence forces due to her activism.



# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Sepideh Salarvand

**Sepideh Salarvand**, an Iranian WHRD, researcher, and documentary maker, was arrested on October 4, 2022. Sepideh was born in 1970. In 2021, she made a documentary film titled "The Lowland" to portray a community of undocumented migrant Afghan children working as garbage collectors in the margins of Tehran.

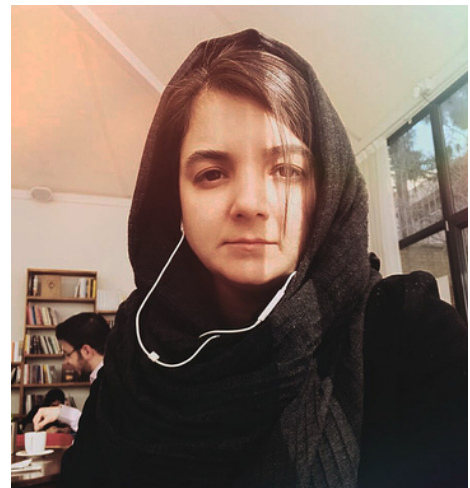


## Anahita HashemiPour

**Anahita HashemiPour**, a WHRD and undergraduate student of Tehran University, was arrested on the morning of October 4, 2022.

## Saba Haj Jafar

**Saba Haj Jafar** is an anthropologist and media activist who has also collaborated with the Havali magazine. She was arrested in her home on October 4 and is currently being held in Ward 209.



# FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

## Saba Sherdoost

**Saba Sherdoost**, a leading WHRD and former journalist was arrested on October 10, 2022, at her home in Tehran along with her husband, Milad Fadaie-Asl, a journalist who had been imprisoned for his work on multiple occasions. Saba Sherdoost was also arrested on September 18, 2022 during a protest in front of the Parliament, organized by women's rights activists demanding accountability for the wrongful death in custody of Mahsa Amini. She was temporarily released on bail after 48 hours hours of detention following the September 18 arrest. It is unclear where she and her husband are being held.





**FEMENA supports Woman Human Rights Defenders, their organizations and feminist movements through analysis of trends and policy, documentation, fostering the development of regional communities of practice and advocacy.**

**FEMENA's work is primarily focused on contexts of shrinking or closed civic space and contexts complicated by growing extremism and conflict.**



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