

IRAN PROTESTS

FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED



October 31, 2022

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On October 26, 2022, thousands gathered in Saqqez, the hometown of Mahsa Amini, to mark the passing of 40 days since her death in police custody. On the day of her burial, Kurdish women took off their hijab and chanted "woman, life, freedom," in protest to her arrest and subsequent death. The following day, a number of women's rights activists and women's groups announced that they would protest Mahsa's death by gathering outside the parliament in Tehran. Their peaceful demonstration, however, was forcibly dispersed by security forces who arrested over a dozen women human rights defenders (WHRDs) that day. Soon thereafter, citizens outraged by the death of Mahsa, began their own protests. Protests erupted in big and small cities, in remote villages and suburbs, in universities and schools, in business districts and oil refineries and they have continued since. According to reports, citizens in 112 cities across Iran have defied the bloody crackdowns, and continued to express their desire for women's bodily autonomy, fundamental freedoms and political change.

This feminist uprising has now turned into a revolution, with women, and schoolgirls at the forefront of the nationwide protests. Security forces continue to arrest protesters and rights defenders, including scores of WHRDs, student activists, civil society actors, and journalists on a daily basis. We are witnessing **arbitrary arrests of activists which are intended as preemptive measures, to stop protests**. Even activists who have not participated in demonstrations or played a role in organizing or mobilizing protests, are not spared arrest.



The government response has been brutal. Security forces have progressively stepped up their campaign of violence and repression, using live ammunition and bullets to target peaceful protesters, those filming protests and even bystanders.

The death tolls of civilians mount daily. According to reports by human rights organizations, 244 people have been killed, including 32 minor children. Rights groups have also documented 12,000 arrests, including the arrest of 320 minor children under the age of 18.

Schoolgirls have been arrested for staging peaceful demonstrations. Many of them are detained in juvenile detention centers. Based on the videos posted on social media, heavily armed security forces have entered schools where students had peacefully demonstrated. In some videos, riot police fire tear gas canisters inside schools. An interview with the Minister of Education on October 11, 2022, revealed that many children have been sent to "psychological camps" after they were arrested for participating in school protests. The number of children transferred to psychological facilities is not known. It is clear however that the rights of children and youth to free expression and association and to live free from violence are being violated by the Iranian government.

This report, is the fifth in a series, in which FEMENA has documented the arrests of WHRDs, bringing the numbers of those documented by to 118. FEMENA recognizes that we have not been able to capture and verify names of all WHRDs arrested. However, we plan to continue to document the names of other WHRDs arrested in relation to the current protests and will provide information on those released, in the days and weeks to come. We call on international organizations and the UN to take note of these WHRDs and continue to press for their release.

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Sarveh RahmaniPour

Sarveh RahmaniPour, a WHRD from Dehgolan was arrested on September 21, 2022. She was reportedly arrested by the special unit of the security forces. Rights groups have described her arrest as "violent". Sarveh was transferred to Sanandaj Central Correctional Center, after being arrested.

Rozhan Qaderi

Rozhan Qaderi, a WHRD, painter and children's book illustrator, was arrested by Sanandaj security forces on Tuesday, September 22, 2022, following the wave of arrests of Kurdish women's rights activists. While in detention, Rozhan was denied access to phone calls for a few days. **She was temporarily released on bail on October 2, 2022.**



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Farinaz Saraf

Farinaz Saraf, a WHRD, Film Director, and children's ballet and music teacher, was arrested on September 26, 2022, after she wrote posts in support of the protests on her social media accounts. She was taken to Evin prison. It is not yet clear what charges have been brought against her.

Fatemeh Bavand

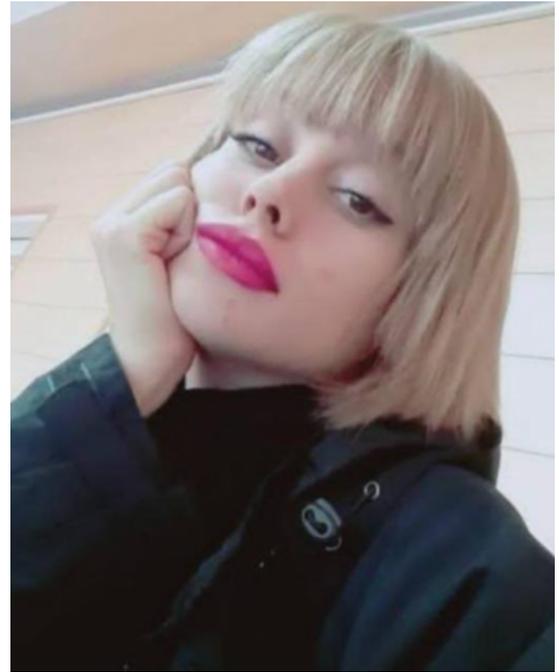
Fatemeh Bavand, a WHRD and law student, was arrested during protests in Dehdasht on September 26, 2022, and was transferred to Yasouj prison, the captiall city of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. It is not yet clear what charges have been brought against her.



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Sara Shamsai

Sara Shamsai, a WHRD and political activist, was arrested on September 27, 2022, and has reportedly been transferred to Ward 209 of Evin prison. Nearly three weeks after her arrest, Sara has been denied the right for legal representation. According to reports, on October 17, she launched a hunger strike to protest her condition. Sara is suffering from Diabetes and faces life-threatening risks.



Aida Rasti

Aida Rasti, a WHRD and artist, was arrested on September 28, 2022, and has reportedly been transferred to Ward 209 of Evin prison. It is not yet clear what charges have been brought against her. Aida is a Bahai citizen and has been denied the right to legal representation and phone calls since she was arrested.

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Sheida Saberi

Sheida Saberi, a WHRD and children's rights activist, was arrested on September 29, 2022, in Yasouj after staging a solo protest at Haft-e-Tir square in Yasouj and chanting slogans against the mandatory hijab. Sheida was arrested violently and transferred to Yasouj prison. **She was temporarily released on bail on October 11, 2022.**



Soheila Mohammadi

Soheila Mohammadi, a Kurdish WHRD from Sanandaj, was arrested on Tuesday, October 1, 2022. The security forces raided the home of this 57-year-old activist and confiscated all the family members' phones, as well as her phone and computer. After five days of interrogation, Soheila was transferred to the Sanandaj Correctional Center.

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Soheila Motaei, Delnia Khani and **Sarina Hosseini** were arrested on Oct 1, 2022, during peaceful protests in Dehgolan, in Kurdistan province, Iran. Sarina Hoseini has since been temporarily released on bail.

Also **Mahshid Khani**, a WHRD in the city of Ilam, in Ilam Province, was arrested and transferred to the women's detention center in Ilam.

Human rights groups have also reported that in the past days, three teachers, **Sara Samavati, Paria Ebadi** and **Masoumeh Rashidi** were arrested and transferred to the Sananadj's Correctional Center.



Rosa Etemad Ansari

Rosa Etemad Ansari, a lawyer and a women's rights activist, was arrested by security forces on October 5, 2022. Rosa is one of several human rights lawyers who volunteered to represent civil society activists and protesters arrested in relation to the current protests.

At least 13 defense attorneys have been targeted and arrested since the start of protests which were sparked by the death in custody of Mahsa Amini

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Firouzeh Khordechi

Firouzeh Khordechi, a WHRD and lawyer, was violently arrested on October 5, 2022, along with two other human rights lawyers. On October 12, following the arrest of a number of lawyers including Firouzeh, several human rights lawyers attended a peaceful demonstration in front of the Iranian Bar Association in Tehran, to demand release of fellow lawyers. The demonstrators were dispersed with tear gas shortly after the demonstration started and some were arrested.



Samaneh Mousavi

Samaneh Mousavi, a WHRD and political activist, was arrested on October 6, 2022, by plainclothes agents in her dental office and was transferred to Ward 209 at Evin prison. A video released from the CCTV camera at her workplace, shows that plainclothes officers broke into her office at night to arrest her. Samaneh Mousavi has been accused of "espionage" and "communication with foreign countries."

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Azita Kazemi

Azita Kazemi, a WHRD from Yasouj, was arrested by the IRGC forces in Gachsaran, in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province on October 6, 2022 and was transferred to the Women's Prison in Yasouj. She was arrested after writing posts on social media platforms about the protests and death in custody of Mahsa Amini. Azita Kazemi has been charged with "propaganda against the state," "disobeying hijab laws in public," and "inciting and encouraging people in cyberspace to participate in protests." **She was temporarily released on bail on October 16, 2022.**

Masoumeh Hejbari

Masoumeh Hejbari, a women's rights activist in Piranshahr, was arrested at her home on Friday, October 7, 2022. Based on reports from Kurdish rights groups, Masoumeh was violently arrested after the security forces raided her home. A few days before her arrest, Masoumeh was seen in a square in downtown Piranshahr, holding a sign in support of women's demands and protesting the killing of Mahsa Amini. It is unclear where she is being held and what charges have been brought against her.



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Anna Ramezani

Anna Ramezani, a 24-year-old WHRD and law student at Yasouj Azad University, was arrested on Saturday, October 8, 2022, after staging a solo protest in Haft-e-Tir square in Yasouj, chanting "Long live Iran, death to the dictator." Anna and several people who tried to prevent her arrest were violently detained. Anna had been arrested in 2019 as well, after participating in a protest. She was tried and sentenced to 5 years in prison and was awaiting the implementation of her sentence when she was arrested again on October 8, 2022.

Pardis Javid

Pardis Javid, a 20-year-old student who was injured during the protests in Sanandaj, was arrested by the security forces on Saturday, October 8, 2022. It is unclear where she has been taken since her arrest and whether she is receiving medical much needed medical care.



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Laleh Mohammadi

Laleh Mohammadi, a children's rights activist, and her husband Abed Tavanche were arrested at their home in Rasht on Monday, October 10, 2022. It is not yet clear what charges have been brought against her. **Laleh Mohammadi has since been temporarily released on bail. Her husband remains in Lakan Prison in Rasht.**

Samaneh Asghari

Samaneh Asghari, a social worker and children's rights activist, was arrested at her home in Tehran early in the morning on October 11, 2022, after six plainclothes security officers, along with a woman pretending to be from the water company, stormed her home. They arrested Samaneh after searching her home and confiscating her electronic devices. One day after her arrest, in a short phone call, Samaneh informed her family that she had been transferred to Ward 209 at Evin prison, managed by the Intelligence Ministry. It is unclear what charges have been brought against her.



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Shirin Mostafanejad

Shirin Mostafanejad, a WHRD and civil society activist from Piranshahr, in West Azarbaijan Province, was arrested on October 11, 2022. Security forces in seven cars stormed her house and arrested her. It is unclear where she has been transferred to after her arrest.

Farzaneh Mirfardi

Farzaneh Mirfardi, a WHRD and children's rights activist, was arrested at her office on October 12, 2022, and transferred to the women's ward in Yasouj Central Prison. Farzaneh is studying for her master's degree in psychology at Yasouj Azad University in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. Farzaneh Mirfardi's research is focused on the struggles of underprivileged women, especially the issue of suicide amongst Dishmuk women and poverty amongst Zilai women.

Farzaneh was temporarily released on bail on October 22, 2022.



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Pari Khedri

Pari Khedri, a 30-year-old WHRD from Baneh, in Kurdistan province, was arrested by security forces during protests. According to reports from rights groups, Pari was arrested violently on October 13, 2022, and was transferred to an undisclosed location. Her family has been denied information regarding her whereabouts or the charges she faces.

Varan Mohammadnejad

Varan Mohammadnejad, a leading Kurdish WHRD, art student at Yazd University, and a member of the Nozhin Socio-cultural Association, was arrested on October 13, 2022, at the Sanandaj bus terminal, on her way to Yazd. According to reports, security forces used violence at the time of her arrest and it is unclear where she was taken afterwards. Varan was previously arrested along with her husband last year, while distributing info about Mother Language Day.



Rights groups report that on Sunday, October 16, three of Varan's family members, Payam Miri, Sahar Vahabi, and Vida Mohammadnejad were arrested at Shahramfar security detention center, managed by the IRGC's Intelligence wing, while inquiring about Varan's whereabouts.

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Zeinab Mousavi

Zeinab Mousavi, a famous comedian, also known as Empress Kuzcoo, was arrested on October 13, 2022, by security forces in Qom. The Admin for Zeinab Mousavi's Instagram page announced her arrest. Mousavi is known for her critical satirical online videos and is very popular on Iranian social media platforms.

Masoumeh Haqqani

Masoumeh Haqqani, an environmental activist, was arrested on October 14, 2022, at her home in city of Galugah in Mazandaran province. According to reports from human rights groups, more than 20 security agents broke into Masoumeh Haqqani's house and violently arrested her and her husband.





Negar Abdollahzadeh

Negar Abdollahzadeh, a Kurdish WHRD from Mahabad, was arrested by the security forces on October 15, 2022. It is unclear where she is being detained.

Farkhondeh Ashuri

Farkhondeh Ashuri, a journalist based in Shiraz, was arrested by the security forces on Monday, October 17, 2022, and was transferred to an undisclosed location. Before arresting her, the security forces raided her home and confiscated her personal belongings, including her passport, laptop, and mobile phone.



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Saba Rayani



Lili Hazrati

Saba Rayani and **Lili Hazrati**, students at Persian Gulf University in Bushehr, were arrested by security forces on October 17, 2022, in front of the university and were transferred to an undisclosed location. The University Student Council has reported the arrests of six more students from the Persian Gulf University on the same day.



Mojgan Ilanlu

Mojgan Ilanlu, a WHRD and documentary filmmaker, was arrested on October 18, 2022. Information about her arrest was posted on her Instagram page, indicating that she had been transferred to Evin prison in Tehran. According to reports, security forces raided the house of Mojgan Ilanlu after breaking the cameras of her residential complex, arrested her, and directed her family to Branch 33 of the Shahid Moghadas Prosecutor's Office for follow-up.

Mojgan Ilanlu, along with several other filmmakers, actors, and directors, was banned from working after protesting the killing of Mahsa Amini. On September 30, 2022, following the nationwide protests, Mojgan published a picture of herself exploring Tehran without wearing the hijab.

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Niloufar Fathi

Niloufar Fathi, a WHRD and math teacher, was arrested on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, along with her lawyer, Hossein Rezaei, after the security forces raided the law offices of Mr. Rezaei. Reports indicated that four intelligence agents, including three men and a woman, confiscated their mobile phones and transferred Niloufar Fathi and Hossein Rezaei to an undisclosed location.



Mandana Sadeghi

Mandana Sadeghi, a journalist in Abadan, was arrested on October 19, 2022, along with her husband, Reza Mohammadi, after the security forces raided their workplace in the morning. It is unclear where they have been detained. Sadeghi was previously prosecuted for writing reports about the collapse of the Metropol building in Abadan and criticizing the local authorities. The case is still under investigation in the judiciary of Khuzestan province.



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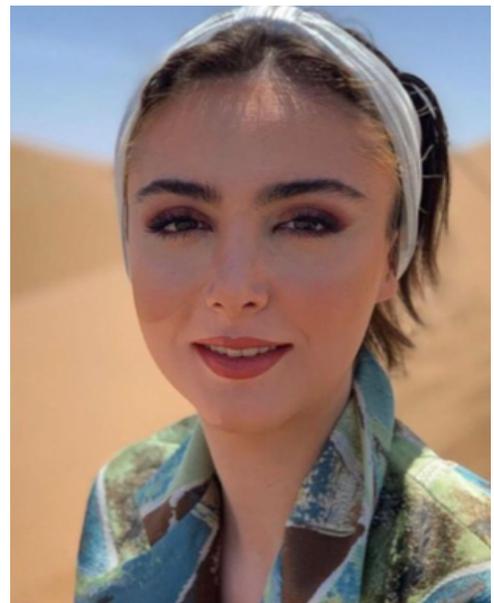


Farzaneh Yahya Abadi

Farzaneh Yahya Abadi, a journalist in Abadan was arrested on October 19, 2022. The security forces raided her workplace and transferred her to an undisclosed location.

Atrin Azarfer

Atrin Azadfer, a WHRD and graphic artist, was arrested on October 19, 2022, in Sanandaj, Kurdistan. The security forces transferred her to an undisclosed location. Since the start of the protests, scores of women have been arrested in Sanandaj. In the first week alone, nearly 100 women (including WHRDs) were arrested in this city.



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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