

# IRAN PROTESTS

## STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

### NO.7



**January 2023**

## STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED



For nearly four months, student groups at over 144 universities across Iran have mobilized to protest the death in custody of Mahsa Amini. The peaceful protests and sit-ins organized by university students in demand of justice have been met with violence and arrests. According to reports, over 600 university students have been arrested since the start of the protests. Many students have also faced academic suspensions and other such disciplinary actions. Female students, who continue to stand at the forefront of the demonstrations to protest the systematic and violent crackdowns by security forces, also face academic suspension, disciplinary action, detention, and court cases.

On December 7, Iranian universities organized broad protests and sit-ins in commemoration of National Student day. They demanded justice for Mahsa Amini and those killed during protests, and called for the release of thousands of protesters, including student activists detained over the last 4 months.

National Student Day. 16th of Azar marks the anniversary of the murder of three students at University of Tehran on December 7, 1953 by police, during the Pahlavi regime. The day has been commemorated by a student groups at universities across Iran and has become a day of collective action in demand of democratic rights and freedoms, including freedom of speech and assembly.

This year, the students commemorated December 7 with demonstrations, sit-ins, and strikes around the country, objecting to the violent suppression of protests around the country and especially in ethnic minority areas, such as Kurdistan and Baluchistan.



They further protested widespread crackdowns and use of violence by security forces at universities, mass arrests of student activists, and broad based disciplinary actions against students, including suspensions and bans on continuation of their educations. Major protests, sit-ins and strikes were held in Arak, Isfahan, Tehran, Babol, Karaj, Zahedan and Kurdistan.

The violence that security forces have used against peaceful student activists over the last four months has been concerning. For example, in October 2022, security forces stormed the campus of Sharif University of Technology, where students were peacefully demanding the release of their arrested peers. Security forces used live ammunition and tear gas, beat students, and arrested many of them. Another example is the arrest of over 100 students on November 15 at Razi University of Kermanshah, where security forces raided the dormitories.

The majority of the over 600 university student activists arrested since the start of national protests continue to remain in prison. Many have received academic suspension and other forms of disciplinary measures, including bans on the continuation of their education.

Female students, who are often at the forefront of university protests, are targeted by security forces and universities in a multitude of ways. Female students are facing an array of pressures, including academic suspension, bans from entering campus and dormitories as well as full bans on continuation of their education. Some female students are being punished by universities and through judicial cases for removing their hijabs during university protests. . These students are often identified through surveillance and the use of security cameras installed on campuses. Students living in dormitories are especially vulnerable to academic reprisals, as they risk losing their housing, making it difficult for them to continue their studies.



Detentions tend to be one of the greatest pressures facing university student activists, especially female students. These detentions often last weeks and even months, with poor prison conditions, accompanied by harsh interrogations, during which the detained have no access to lawyers of their choice and often don't know the charges they face. Student rights groups believe these measures are intended to silence and quell university protests. Student activists who are released from detention on bail, often large sums difficult for most families to put up, will have to appear in court and (depending on the charges against them) they may face long prison sentences. Some student activists have already been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 2-6 years.

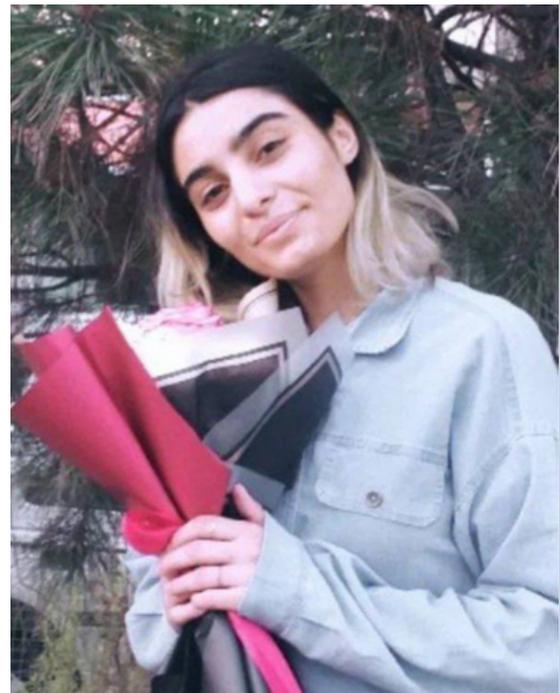
These prison terms and the pressures on student activists, many of them young and unknown, will in likelihood receive less public attention given the violence and long term prison sentences that many protesters or better known activists are facing,. Still, these sentences are significant and deserve publicity. Some Iranian activists are working on creating study opportunities for students who have been expelled from university and face permanent education bans, as a result of their activism.

This current report, number 7 in a series, documents the cases of **58** female university students arrested. This is the second report by Femena focused on documenting the arrest of female student activists, the first of which was published October 2022. Femena recognizes the actual numbers of student activists detained since the start of the protests is higher than reflected in our reports. We have included only cases which we have been able to verify. Femena will continue to document future arrests and will provide updates on the cases already documented as much as possible. We urge international human rights organizations, UN mechanisms, and feminist movements and organizations to follow the cases of student activists detained and provide them with support in order to ensure their safety during detention and eventual release.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Sakineh (Sama) Piran

**Sakineh (Sama) Piran:** A 24-year-old student activist originally from Moghan and residing in Tabriz, Sakineh has been detained since September 29, 2022. After being held for seven days at Tabriz's Ministry of Intelligence detention center, she was transferred to Tabriz Central Prison. Sakineh suffers from heart disease. She was temporarily released on bail on November 13, 2022, after being held for 45 days in Tabriz central prison.



## Zeinab Nasiri

**Zeinab Nasiri:** A sociology student at The University of Isfahan, Zeinab was arrested by security forces in front of her house on October 2, 2022. She is being detained in Dowlatabad Prison in Isfahan. In December 22, 2022, Isfahan Revolutionary Court sentenced Zeinab Nasiri to 5 years and six months in prison. Sources close to her family have reported that she was charged with “gathering and colluding with the intention of disturbing national security” and one year in prison on the charge of “propaganda activities against the state.” Zeinab Nasiri was denied access to a lawyer during the interrogation and even during the investigation.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Aynaz Fouladvand - Behnia Janbaz

**Aynaz Fouladvand:** A graphic arts student at Shiraz Azad University, Aynaz was arrested by security forces on October 2, 2022, after a students' gathering in that university. According to student sources, she is being held at Adelabad Central Prison in Shiraz.

**Behnia Janbaz:** A graphic arts student at Shiraz Azad University, Behnia was arrested by security forces on October 2, 2022, after a students' gathering in that university. She is being held at Adelabad Central Prison in Shiraz.



## Mahdokht Rahmani Pak

**Mahdokht Rahmani Pak:** A drama student at Central Tehran Azad University's Sohanak Art and Architecture Unit, Mahdokht was arrested by security forces on October 2, 2022. In a brief phone call, she informed her family of her transfer to Qarchak Prison. She was temporarily released on bail on October 19, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Elaheh Karimi

**Elaheh Karimi:** An accounting student at Zand University in Shiraz, Elaheh was arrested on October 3, 2022, and held in Adelabad Prison in Shiraz. She was released on bail on November 29, 2022, and is required to wear an electronic ankle bracelet with a radius of 1,000 meters.



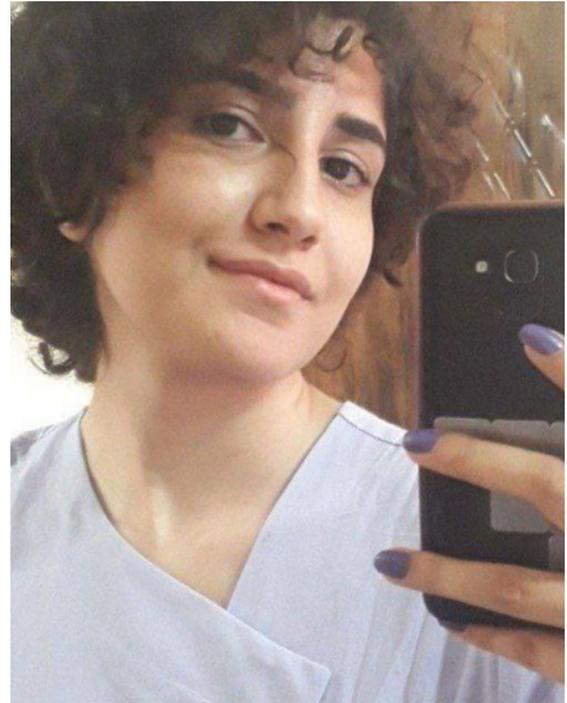
## Parisa Sadeghzadeh

**Parisa Sadeghzadeh:** A biomedical engineering student at Mashhad Azad University, Parisa was arrested by security forces on October 4, 2022, and transferred to Mashhad Central Prison. She is being held in detention with no information available on her release.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Maryam Azimi

**Maryam Azimi:** A masters degree student of Psychology of Children and Youth at the University of Social Welfare and Rehabilitation Sciences, Maryam was arrested on Oct 4, 2022, in front of the dormitory in Tehran, remains in detention in Gharchak prison in Varamin. Maryam was initially being kept in Evin prison. She was moved to Gharchak prison after the fire incident in Evin prison on Oct 15, 2022. She was released temporarily on bail on December 15, 2022.



## Yasaman Panahian

**Yasaman Panahian:** A management student at Allameh Tabataba'i University, Yasaman was arrested in an attack by security forces on October 12, 2022, in Noshirvani University in her hometown of Babol. She had taken refuge in Noshirvani University after being pursued by the security forces. However, security forces entered the university grounds after a confrontation with the university's safety officers and fired shots in the air in the midst of gathered students. Yasaman's current whereabouts are not known.



# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Fatemeh Gorji

**Fatemeh Gorji** : A 23-year-old chemical engineering student of Semnan University, Fatemeh was arrested on October 14, 2022. In a preliminary ruling by the court, **Fatemeh was sentenced to one year in prison, 74 lashes suspended**, two years of ban on leaving the country, and a ban on membership in political and social groups and parties.

She was charged with "insulting the sanctities of Islam, disrupting the country's security, advertising against the system of the Islamic Republic", and has been denied the right to legal representation in her trail.



## Rozhan Mohammadi

**Rozhan Mohammadi**: A 20-year-old medical student from Kermanshah at Tehran University, Rozhan was arrested in Tehran on October 14, 2022. Her current whereabouts are unknown.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Maryam Derisi

**Maryam Derisi:** An English literature student at Saveh University, Maryam was arrested in Kazeroon on October 15, 2022. After eight days in solitary confinement at the Shiraz Revolutionary Guards Corps Intelligence Offices, she was transferred to the Adelabad Prison. Without her lawyer present, she was convicted in court to 1 years in prison for “insulting the Supreme Leader and propaganda against the regime.” Maryam was temporarily released on 300,000-Toman collateral and a 70 million-Toman bail.



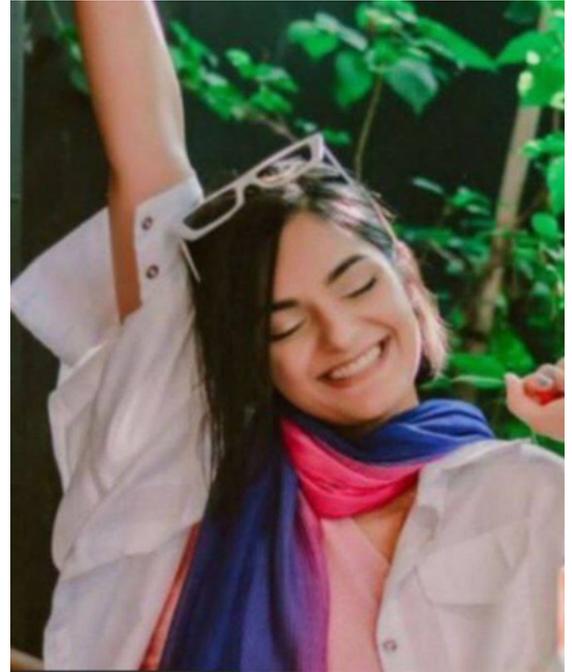
## Nasim Mardoukhi

**Nasim Mardoukhi:** A 36-year-old University of Art student, Nasim was arrested for graffiti by the security forces in Tehran on October 15, 2022. She is currently being held in harsh conditions in Qarchak Varamin prison. Recently, the second branch of Evin's prosecutor's office brought two charges of "Association and Collusion" and "Propaganda against the state" against her. She was temporarily released on bail on December 8, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Bitra Haqqani Nasimi

**Bitra Haqqani Nasimi:** A 22-year-old Blogger and graphics student at the Qudsiyah University of Sari, Bitra was arrested by the security police on October 18, 2022. She was held in solitary confinement for 20 days. After 60 days without a court hearing, she was accused of "corruption on earth," which could carry a heavy prison term. She is currently detained in Qaem Shahr prison.



## Niousha Goodarzi

**Niousha Goodarzi:** A 21-year-old graphic arts student at the Azad University in Sohanak, Niousha has been detained since October 24, 2022, after security forces raided her home. She is currently being held at the women's prison of Qarchak. She was temporarily released on December 5, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Yeganeh Gholamhossein Zadeh

**Yeganeh Gholamhossein Zadeh:** A student at Bahonar University in Kerman, Yeganeh was arrested on October 26, 2022. There is currently no information regarding her status or whereabouts. She was temporarily released on bail on November 14, 2022.



## Zoha Abdi

**Zoha Abdi:** A last semester pharmacy student at Isfahan University of Medical Sciences, Zoha was arrested by plainclothes officers on October 26, 2022, after attending to the medical needs of an injured university student. The student was taken to the hospital, where Zoha was working to receive medical care. Zoha's whereabouts are not known. She was released on bail on November 28, 2022.

## Houra Badihi

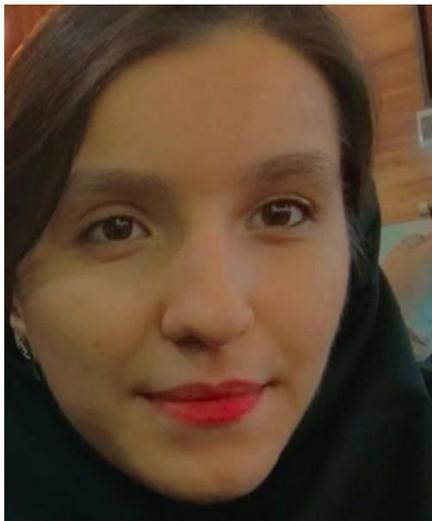
**Houra Badihi:** A mining student at the University of Tehran's Technical College, Houra was arrested on the university grounds on October 29, 2022, and transferred to Evin Prison. Since her arrest, she was denied contact with her family. Houra was temporarily released on November 28, 2022.



## Mahtab Moghani Nejad

**Mahtab Moghani Nejad** An urban development student at Yazd University, Mahtab was arrested at the university on October 29, 2022. Her whereabouts are unknown.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED



**Mahshid Moshashaei- Andisheh Jalali-Aida Moradbeigi- Kimiya Jamshidi**

**Mahshid Moshashaei, Andisheh Jalali, Aida Moradbeigi, and Kimiya Jamshidi**, students of the Kermanshah University of Technology, were arrested on October 29, 2022, in front of the dormitories. While detained, despite numerous inquiries by their families, their whereabouts remained unknown and their charges unclear. Mahshid Moshashaei is a member of the Yarsan community. All four students were temporarily released on November 1, 2022.



**Rayehe Hosseini**

**Rayehe Hosseini:** A sociology student at Al-Zahra University and secretary of the Islamic Student Assembly, Rayehe was arrested by security forces at her home on October 29, 2022. She was temporarily released on December 7, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Nazila Maroufian

**Nazila Maroufian:** A journalism student at Allameh Tabataba'i University, originally from Saqqez, Nazila was arrested on October 30, 2022 by security forces and transferred to Ward 209 in Evin Prison.

Nazila is a reporter for “Didban Iran” and “Rouydad 24.” She had interviewed Amjad Amini, Mahsa Amini’s father, and was arrested after the interview was published.



## Mahsa Mohammadi

**Mahsa Mohammadi:** A microbiology student from Sabzevar, Mahsa was arrested in early October 2022. She is currently held in Dowlatabad prison in Isfahan and has reportedly been charged with blasphemy. Mahsa was accused of sab al-nabi (insulting the sanctities of Islam) for her tweet, which could carry heavy sentences. Based on reports from rights groups, Mahsa's mother was detained for a few days while trying to follow up on her daughter's case and was later expelled from her job at a school.



# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Zahra Alamdari

**Zahra Alamdari:** A student at Tehran University of Art and from Bijar in Kurdistan, Zahra was arrested by security forces in mid-October. Her status and charges are unknown.



## Azadeh Karami

**Azadeh Karami:** An Art student at the University of Tehran, and from Sarpol-e Zahab, Azadeh was arrested in Tehran on October 30, 2022. Her status and whereabouts are not known.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Dorsa Mennati

**Dorsa Mennati:** A medical student at Tehran University, Dorsa was arrested on October 31, 2022, by security forces at the university dormitories. She was temporarily released on bail on November 29, 2022.



## Armita Pavir

**Armita Pavir:** A student activist and a biology student at Azerbaijan Civil University in Tabriz, Armita was brutally arrested without a warrant at the entrance of the university on October 31, 2022. On December 1, 2022, it was reported that she has been on a hunger strike since November 22, 2022 to protest the uncertainty and lack of due process in her case.



She was transported from Tabriz Central Prison to be interrogated at Tabriz's Ministry of Intelligence offices every day from morning till evening. She was temporarily released on bail on December 8, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Niloofar Mirzaei

**Niloofar Mirzaei:** A graphic arts student at Al-Zahra University, Niloofar was arrested by plainclothes security forces on November 1, 2022, while leaving her university dormitory. Since her arrest, Niloofar has been kept in solitary confinement in Ward 2-Alef of IRGC intelligence and then was transferred to ward 209 of Evin prison. She is currently being held in Qarchak prison. Her family has been threatened not to publicize her case.



## Masoumeh Ajdadi

**Masoumeh Ajdadi:** a student of engineering physics at Buein Zahra Technical University in Qazvin, Masoumeh was arrested on Wednesday, November 2, 2022, by the security forces.

Masoumeh is originally from Rasht and was arrested in Karaj. In a brief phone call she informed her family of her arrest and her transfer to Evin prison.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Marzieh Hosseini

**Marzieh Hosseini:** A 27-year-old student at the University of Kurdistan, Marzieh was arrested on November 5, 2022 by security forces in Marivan as part of the widespread arrests.

She was then transferred to the Sanandaj Intelligence Detention Center.



## Sufia Sahebi

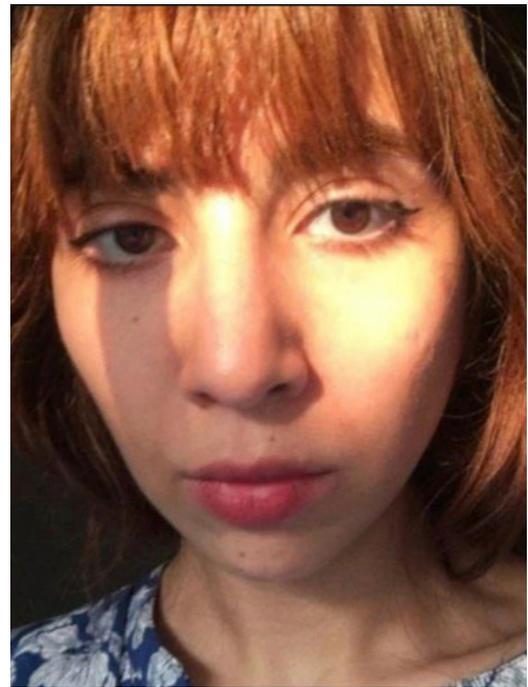
**Sufia Sahebi:** An undergraduate microbiology student at Azad University of North Tehran, and editor of the literary magazine “Shakheh Nabat,” Sufia was arrested by the security forces on November 5, 2022, during a raid of her home.

She was transferred to Ward 209 of Evin Prison. There is no information regarding her condition. Sufia is diabetic and was arrested the night before her birthday. She was temporarily released on bail on December 18, 2022 .

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Reyhaneh Marouf

**Reyhaneh Marouf:** A sociology student at the University of Tehran and secretary of the Guild Council of the College of Social Sciences, Reyhaneh was arrested on November 6 at the university's entrance by plainclothes security forces. This is Reyhaneh's second arrest since the start of the protests in September 2022. She was released on bail on November 27, 2022.



## Sarina Sadeghi

**Sarina Sadeghi:** A graphics student at Al-Zahra University, Sarina was arrested by plainclothes security forces in the vicinity of the university on November 8, 2022.

It is reported that the university's security office had provided her identification to the arresting agency. Sarina was temporarily released on bail on November 25, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Arghavan Tarashi

**Arghavan Tarashi:** A 20-year-old history student at Ferdowsi University in Mashhad, Arghavan was arrested on November 9, 2022. She was temporarily released on November 21, 2022.



## Fatemeh Ansari

**Fatemeh Ansari:** A bachelor's student of counseling at Shahid Beheshti University, Fatemeh was arrested on November 12, 2022, after being summoned to the Evin Prosecutor's Office.

She was temporarily released on bail on December 4, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Maedeh Ulad Qaragoz

**Maedeh Ulad Qaragoz:** A 23-year-old student, Maedeh was arrested on November 13, 2022, for the second time since the start of the protests in Tabriz. She was arrested after publishing a story on her social media account. On a Twitter post on November 17, 2022, Maedeh's sister wrote: "Maedeh Ulad Qaragoz, my sister, was transferred to Tabriz Central Prison despite the posted bail. She has been denied visitation."

On December 5, 2022, the Revolutionary court in Tabriz sentenced her to 16 months in prison, 8 million fines and 2 years of ban from leaving the country. She was temporarily released on bail on December 3, 2022.



## Asma Ghanjizadeh

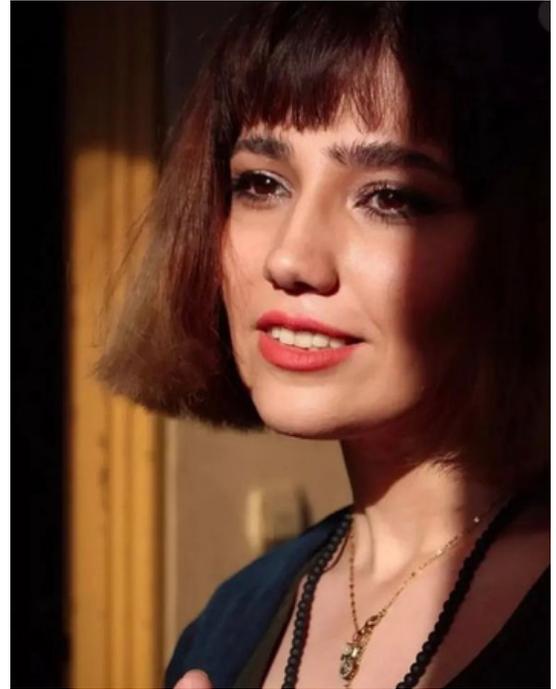
**Asma Ganjizadeh:** A philosophy student at the University of Isfahan and a former law student at the University of Gilan, Asma was arrested by security forces on November 15, 2022. While in prison, her family was denied any information about her situation, or the agency responsible for her arrest.

Asma was temporarily released on December 28, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Shiva Musazadeh

**Shiva Musazadeh:** A graduate student in dramatic literature at Tehran University of Art, Shiva was arrested by security forces for the second time on November 15, 2022. Her first arrest was on September 22, 2022. During her first arrest, she was released on bail after 12 days of detention. She has been released temporarily on December 5, 2022.



## Maryam Mohammadi

**Maryam Mohammadi:** A student at Razi University in Kermanshah, Maryam was arrested by security forces on November 15, 2022.

Her status and whereabouts are not known.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Hanieh Yousefzadeh

**Hanieh Yousefzadeh:** A psychology student at Mazandaran University, Hanieh was arrested on November 15, 2022, after leaving university grounds.

She was first hit by the security forces' car and was then abducted in the same car. She was released on November 17, 2022.



## Mohaddeseh Azizi

**Mohaddeseh Azizi:** An engineering physics student at Babol's Noshirvani University, Mohaddeseh was arrested by security forces on November 17, 2022.

She was released on bail on November 22, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Aida Akbari

**Aida Akbari:** A medical student at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Aida was arrested by security forces on November 18, 2022, on the day of Aylar Haqqi's funeral. She was released temporarily on November 19, 2022.



## Sadaf Akbari

**Sadaf Akbari:** A dental student at Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, Sadaf was arrested by security forces on November 18, 2022, on the day of Aylar Haqqi's funeral.

She was released temporarily on November 19, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Parto Shahvandi

**Parto Shahvandi:** A Ph.D. mathematics student at Tarbiat Modares University, Parto was arrested by the security forces on November 20, 2022, and was transferred to Qarchak Prison. So far there is no information regarding her status or the agency responsible for her detainment. Parto was arrested along with her two sisters, Sepideh and Pegah Shahvandi. She was released on bail on December 12, 2022.



## Negar Tavoosi

**Negar Tavoosi:** A 19-year-old English language student from Tehran, Negar was arrested on November 21, 2022.

On a phone call to her family, she notified them that she was being held in Evin Prison. Negar was temporarily released on January 2, 2023.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Soha Mortezaei

**Soha Mortezaei:** The former secretary of the General Council of Tehran University student association, Soha was arrested on November 21, 2022, and transferred to Evin Prison to serve a sentence of six years in prison. She is currently being held in Qarchak prison. Soha was arrested by Intelligence Ministry agents on her way to work. During her arrest she was sexually assaulted, severely beaten and suffered numerous bruises and wounds to the head, hands, and feet, as well as buttocks and genitals.



She was previously arrested in 2014, January 2018 and November 2019. Her lawyer, Mostafa Nili, is also serving a prison term.



## Sara Bayati

**Sara Bayati:** A student, Sara was arrested in front of Tehran City Theater on December 3, 2022.

Her whereabouts are currently unknown and it is not clear on what charges she has been arrested.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Pardis Tavakoli

**Pardis Tavakoli:** A student in scenography at the University of Tehran, Pardis was arrested on December 7, 2022. In a phone call Pardis has informed her family that she was transferred to ward 209 in Evin prison.

Her whereabouts are currently unknown and it is not clear on what charges she has been arrested.



## Reyhaneh Hadipour

**Reyhaneh Hadipour:** A student of Khajeh Nasir University, Reyhaneh was arrested on December 7, 2022, when the intelligence forces stormed her home. While in prison, her whereabouts remained unknown to her family and it was not clear on what charges she was arrested. She was released temporarily on December 29, 2022.

# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Kimiya Karimi

**Kimiya Karimi:** A physics student at the University of Khajeh Nasir University and a member of the university's volleyball team, Kimiya was arrested on December 7, 2022.

In a brief phone call she informed her family of her arrest, but she wasn't sure where she was being kept. She was released temporarily on December 29, 2022.



## Hosna Heidari

**Hosna Heidari:** a Master's chemistry student at Razi University, Hosna was arrested on Friday December 9, 2022 by the security forces on Taqbastan Blvd in Kermanshah. She was reportedly taken to an unknown place.

Her whereabouts are currently unknown and it is not clear on what charges she has been arrested.



# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Maryam Balalpour

**Maryam Balalpour:** A student of Shahid Beheshti University, Maryam was arrested on December 12, 2022, by the security forces and transferred to Ward 209 of Evin Prison.

Her whereabouts are currently unknown and it is not clear on what charges she has been arrested.



## Anahita Jannati

**Anahita Jannati:** A student of German language literature and translation at Tehran University, Anahita was arrested by security forces on Nov 13. She was transferred to Evin Prison, where she's currently detained.

Her status is currently unknown and it is not clear what charges are brought against her.



# STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

## Bitá Veisi

**Bitá Veisi:** A student of physical education at Sanandaj Girls' Technical College, Bitá was arrested by security forces on December 10, 2022, during protests of the students of this school.

There's no information on where she was taken and where she is being held.



## Hamideh Zarei

**Hamideh Zarei:** A 37 year-old master's student in financial management at the University of Research Sciences, Hamideh was arrested on the 40th day after killing of protester Hadis Najafi in Karaj.

She has been held in Kechui prison since his arrest, and her charges remain unknown. her family have been also under pressure to remain silent. On January 3, 2023, rights groups reported that Hamideh has launched a hunger strike to protest her arrest and the prison condition.



**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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