

IRAN PROTESTS

FEMINISTS & WHRDS DETAINED

NO.3



October 4, 2022

STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED



University students in Iran have historically played an important role in pushing for political change and progress. In fact, university protests and strikes were critical in bringing about the Iranian Revolution in 1979 and since then protests within universities have played pivotal roles in the emergence of the reform movement (in the late 1990s) and in the spread of protests following the contested results of Presidential elections in 2009. This time too, students played a key role in sparking protests in response to the death in custody of **Mahsa Amini**.

Historically the **student and women's movements** in Iran have been very close. It is no surprise, given that over **half of university students** in Iran are **young women** who have **demands for equality and an end to discrimination**. University students were among the first groups to organize protests following the death in custody of **Mahsa Amini** and their protests have continued since, spreading across the country, even to faculties that rarely engage in political protest.

As a result, student activists, including female students, have been especially targeted for arrest. Videos published online depict that many of the students were also violently beaten. Female students from different cities living in dormitories are especially vulnerable to arrest, because it is easier for security forces to find them, and they have no place to hide and no families close by to provide them with refuge. The large number of student activists arrested since the start of the unrests also points to the young age of protesters across the country.

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When students in several universities across the country announced strikes starting on **October 1, 2022** the violence of police and security forces against them increased exponentially. At **Sharif University of Technology**, where students were protesting peacefully in objection to the arrest of fellow students, security forces surrounded the university, causing a blockade, preventing students from leaving the campus. They began beating students and arresting them in droves. Tear gas, batons and mass arrests, were used against students on a number of campuses across the country. **Pellet gunshots were used** against students at **Sharif University** as well as **Tehran University**.

When news of a blockade against students at Sharif University got out, Iranians went to the university and began protesting outside, demanding that students be released. As a result of these developments, the last days have witnessed a sharp increase in the number of student activists arrested, including female students.

This report aims to document the cases of some of the female students arrested since the start of the protests, but we recognize the numbers are much higher than reflected here. The arrest of students whose cases have been highlighted here, have been verified. **FEMENA** will continue to document other cases as they are verified, and will update the status of cases as news is received.

FEMENA hopes that the cases of these students, along with their male colleagues will be taken up by international human rights organizations and UN mechanisms to ensure their safety in custody and speedy release.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED



Bavan Lotfi

Bavan Lotfi, a student of fine arts specializing in painting at Urumieh University was arrested on **September 20, 2022**. It is unclear where she is being detained.

Adeleh Sheibani

Adeleh Sheibani, a student at Gilan University, was arrested on Keshavarz Blvd, in Tehran on **September 23rd, 2022**. Zahra is studying applied arts and painting.



Maedeh Delbari

Maedeh Delbari, student activist and former secretary of the Student Islamic Association at Al-Zahra University, in Tehran, was arrested on **September 23, 2022**. According to reports, Maedeh was arrested after appearing for interrogation at the Ministry of Intelligence, following a summons.



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Maedeh Jamal Livani

Maedeh Jamal Livani, a student at Noshiravani University in the city of Babol, who is studying for a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, was arrested on **September 23, 2022**, by security forces. She was arrested in front of her dormitory's entrance.

Zahra Kashkaki

Zahra Kashkaki, a student at the Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran was arrested by on **September 23, 2022**.



Reihane Marouf

Reihane Marouf, activist and sociology student at the University of Tehran, was arrested on **September 23, 2022**. Reihaneh is the secretary of the union council for the Social Sciences Faculty.



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Sepideh Ahmadkhani

Sepideh Ahmadkhani, activist, and student at Shahid Beheshti University, in Tehran, was arrested at her home on **September 23, 2022**. In a night time search of her home prior to arrest, security officers confiscated her mobile phone, laptop, and other personal belongings.

Azin Saidi Nasab

Azin Saidi Nasab, an activist and student of environmental sciences at Tehran University, was arrested by security forces on **September 23, 2022**.



Shiva Mousazadeh

Shiva Mousazadeh studying for a Master's Degree in performance art at Tehran University was arrested on **September 24, 2022**.



STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Shadi Azhdari

Shadi Azhdari, a philosophy student at Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran, was arrested on **September 24, 2022** by security forces. The location where she is being held is unknown.



Negin Aramesh

Negin Aramesh, a student in German studies at the University of Tehran and a human rights activist, was arrested on **September 24, 2022**. She was moved to an unspecified location after arrest and her whereabouts remain unknown.



Banafsheh Kamali

Banafsheh Kamali a student of Persian Literature at the University of Yazd was arrested by security forces on **September 25, 2022**.



STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Motahareh Goonei

Motahareh Goonei, a student activist and member of the Islamic Association at the University of Tehran, was arrested on **September 26, 2022**. According to reports, she was transferred to Evin prison.



Reihane Naseri, activist and a physics student at Shiraz University was arrested on **September 26, 2022** after leaving her university in Shiraz. She has been denied contact with her family since her arrest and it is not clear where she is being detained.

Reihane Naseri



Zahra Yas Moeini

Zahra Yas Moini, a student activist at Allameh University in Tehran, was arrested on **September 29, 2022** on Shariati Street in Tehran. Zahra is an undergraduate studying political science at Allameh Tabatabai University. She has reportedly been transferred to Evin prison, but charges against her are unclear.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Sara Naderi

Sara Naderi, a student of economics at Tehran University and a member of the student union council at the economic faculty, was arrested on **October 1, 2022**.



Maedeh Amir Siafi

Maedeh Amir Siafi, an economics student at the University of Tehran, was arrested by security forces on **October 1, 2022**. It is unclear where she is being held.



Fatmeh Rashidi Abarghan

Fatmeh Rashidi Abarghani, a student of English literature at Al-Zahra University in Tehran, was arrested by security forces near Enghelab (Revolution) Square on **October 1, 2022**.



STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Helia Karimnejad

Helia Karimnejad, a student activist, was arrested on **October 1, 2022**. Helia is studying biology at Kharazmi University in Tehran.



Shakiba Houshyar

Shakiba Houshyar, a student in mechanical engineering at the Razi University of Kermanshah, was arrested by the security forces on the evening of **October 1, 2022**, as she was leaving the University.

Zahra Rezaei

Zahra Rezaei, a biotechnology student at the University of Tehran, was arrested on **October 1, 2022**, while leaving the university.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS ARRESTED

Melika Gharagozlou

Melika Gharagozlou, a 22-year-old journalism student at Allameh Tabatabai University in Tehran, was arrested on October 1, 2022. According to her lawyer, Melika was arrested on Saturday night after her home was violently raided by a dozen male and female security forces. In a phone call with her mother, Melika has mentioned that she had been transferred to ward 209 in Evin prison, managed by the Intelligence Ministry.



Sepideh Navaei

Sepideh Navaei, a management student at Kharazmi University in Tehran, was arrested on **October 2, 2022** and her whereabouts are unknown.



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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