

# IRAN PROTESTS

## WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

### NO. 9





## WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS



According to unofficial statistics, more than 500 people have been killed by the Islamic Republic's security forces since Mahsa Amini was killed in the custody of Iran's morality police in September 2022, and throughout the subsequent "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement also referred to as the "Jina" uprising. These deaths have occurred during protests, in detention, under torture or in other ways. In many cases, state security forces threatened families of victims to ensure their silence, and have refuted accounts of the killings by pressuring families of victims, and by obtaining forced confessions which have been broadcast on state sponsored media. For this reason, it has been difficult to document and confirm cases of protesters killed during the uprisings.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's (IRI) security and judiciary officials have put forth numerous misleading and false accounts about the death of protesters, including stories claiming protesters had died as a result of suicide, accidents, falling from buildings, poisonings, heart attacks, strokes, and shots fired by anti-government groups. Security forces have also taken hostile positions against those who publicized the names and stories of victims by referring to their accounts as "fictitious killing scenarios by counter-revolutionary media." Many families report having been threatened with not receiving the bodies of their loved ones for burial, if they shared information about the circumstances of the death of their family members. Others reported facing threats of arrest or threats against the lives and safety of their children or loved ones. According to these accounts, family members were forced to go on camera and/or state TV to repeat false accounts about the manner in which their loved ones were killed.

Some families came forward to shed light on how their loved ones were killed, only after being able to safely bury them. Others have reported being informed of their loved one's death after security forces had already buried them.



Large crowds of mourners attending the funerals of those killed in protests as well as traditional mourning ceremonies on the 7th and 40th days after death, transformed many of these events into protest and dissent opportunities against the government. Many of the gatherings turned violent, when security forces attacked mourners with teargas, beating and detaining them. In some cases the events turned deadly when police shot bullets into crowds.

Rapid spread of fake news on social media, which is quickly picked up and retold by foreign based media, has created further challenges and complications in accurately documenting the cases of those killed in protests and the ordeal of their families. The intense pressure and intimidation of victims' families; the severe limitations on the free flow of information, the arrest and suppression of journalists; and widespread censorship of the media in Iran are other factors posing challenges and contributing to inconsistencies in the names and facts surrounding those alleged to have been killed during the "Jina" uprising.

For this reason, Femena conducted vigorous fact checking and desk research in developing this report, which chronicles the names of the women killed during protests and to the extent possible the circumstances of their death. Through this report, we aim to commemorate the women who tragically lost their lives in the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising. Many of these women willingly participated in the protests with clear demands for freedom and democratic changes. Some, however, were caught in the violence used by security forces and lost their lives as a result. This report also attempts to document, to the extent possible, the government's systematic harassment of the victims' families. Femena condemns these crimes and hopes that documenting these narratives will be a step towards bringing to justice those responsible for carrying out and ordering these criminal acts against peaceful protesters.



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## Minoo Majidi Kermanshah (September 20, 2022 )

Minoo Majidi, born in 1960 in Ghasre Shirin, Kermanshah, was shot by pellet gunfire during a popular protest in Kermanshah on September 20, 2022. Islamic Republic security forces proclaimed her a pro-regime martyr, but her family refuted the government's account as false. According to Minoo Majidi's daughter, Mahsa Piraei, her mother had been shot by security forces from behind at close range. According to the medical examiner's office, there were 167 pellets in Minoo's body and her spleen and lungs were punctured by pellet gunshots.



Minoo's family was prevented from collecting her body from Taleghani Hospital. After her family's insistence, her husband was interrogated. Her funeral was held quickly amidst fears that her body would be stolen by government security forces. Minoo Majidi's funeral turned into a protest when large crowds gathered. A number of women took off their headscarves at Minoo's funeral waived them over their heads and chanted: "Today is a mourning day, today is the day of mourning" and "Jin, Jiyan, Azadi" (or Woman, Life, Freedom).



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One day after the funeral, a photograph of Minoo Majidi's other daughter, Roya Piraei, was circulated on social media, as she stood at her mother's gravesite, with a shaved head, her cut hair in hand. This photograph has become one of the most iconic images of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising.

According to Mahsa Piraei her mother " was full of energy and passion for life. For a while, she was a volunteer table tennis coach for deaf and hearing impaired students. In the early years after the revolution, she was purged from the teacher training program. Perhaps because she was a woman or a Kurd."

Mahsa continued: "I keep thinking that because my name is Mahsa and this happened to Mahsa Amini, my mother felt a great sense of empathy for with Mahsa's mother and that is why she [joined protests on] the streets and was killed..."



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## Nika Shakarami Tehran (September 20, 2022)

Born on October 2, 2005, Nika Shakarami was one of many teenagers who participated in protests. She went missing on Keshavarz Boulevard in Tehran on September 20. Nine days later, her family identified her body in Kahrizak morgue. In her last call home, Nika had said that she was running away from authorities. Social media videos show Nika to have been a happy teenager with ambitions of stardom, who enjoyed dancing, singing and the arts.

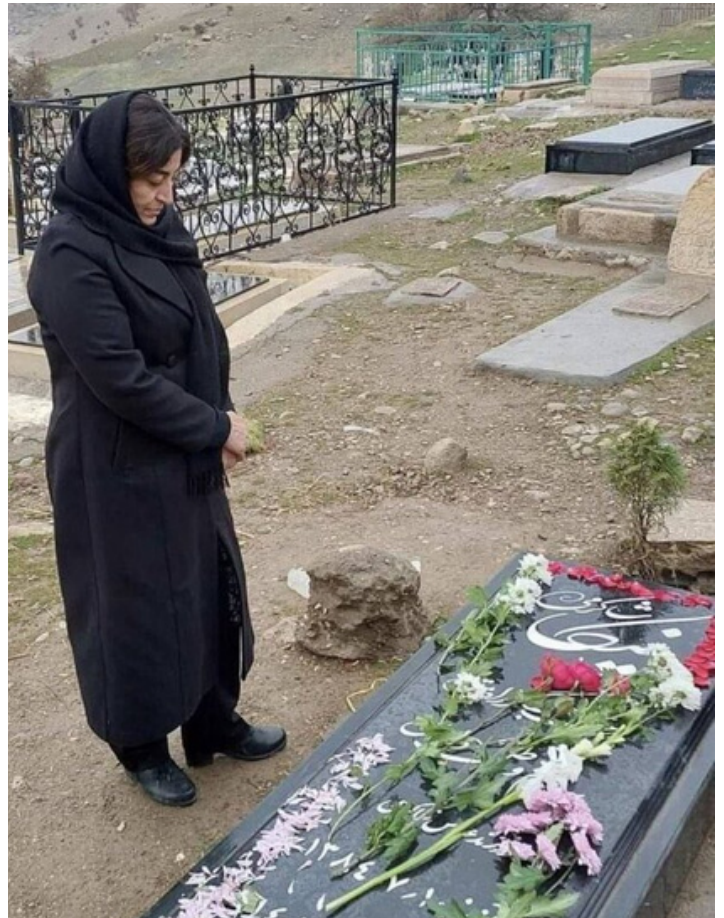


Nika's body was delivered to her family with her face crushed and beaten, possibly by batons. A knowledgeable source had told Radio Zamaneh that Nika Shakarami was seen among protesters on the night of September 20th at the intersection of Keshavarz Boulevard and 16 Azar Street. People who had witnessed Nika her last moments that night shared in an interview with CNN that they saw her arrested by plainclothes security agents after being chased.



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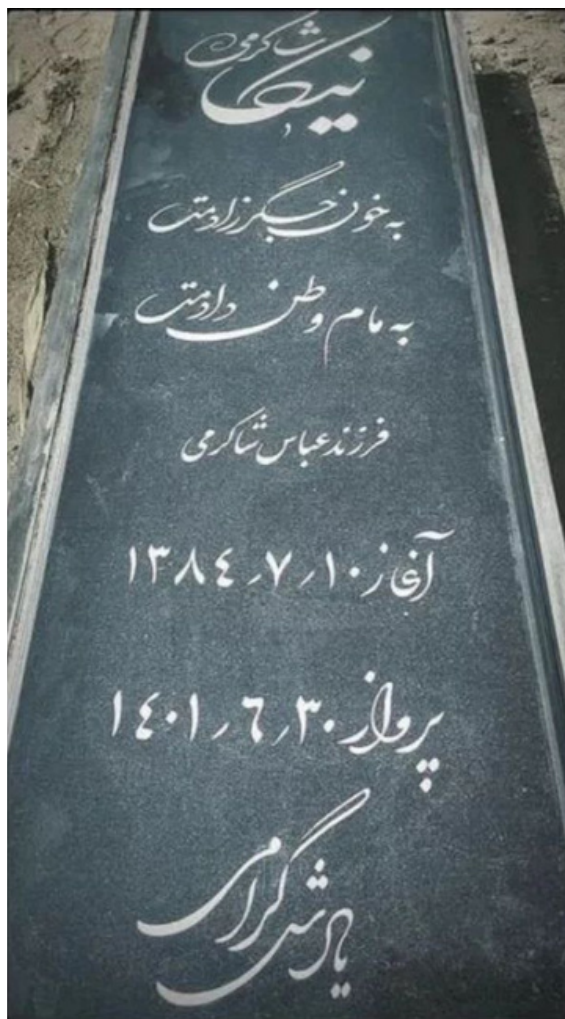
In a video broadcast by Radio Farda, Nika's mother, Nasrin Shakarami, called her daughter's death a "crime" and said described how she had been under pressure since the death of her daughter to make a forced televised confession. Rejecting the government's claim that Nika had died after falling from a high building, she said: "after receiving her body, I, myself, examined my daughter's body. [Nika's] body was unharmed and there were no fractures or bruises on her hands or feet. However, [her body indicated] that she had been struck by a very severe blow [to the head] ...her skull was crushed in and her jaw was broken."



Nika's aunt and uncle were also severely pressured by security forces to make a televised confession; they were arrested and even threatened with death. As in other cases, the Iranian government initially tried to deny Nika's murder at the hands of security forces through forcing confessions from her relatives, broadcasting Nika's aunt and uncle's false confessions, and creating fictional scenarios. However, these efforts were futile. Nika Shakarami's mother called the Islamic Republic's account of her daughter's death "a lie and fictitious."

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While Nika's body was supposed to be buried in The Salehin Cemetery in Khorramabad, security agents stole her body from the morgue in Khorramabad city and buried her on October 3 in the remote village of Hayat al-Ghayb, in a cemetery of the same name, 40 kilometers outside Khorramabad without any of her family members present. There were 70-80 armed security officers at her burial. Despite strict security measures, Nika's 40th day ceremony on October 27 was attended by a large crowd at the Hayat al-Ghayb cemetery near Khorramabad. This gathering became the scene of anti-government protests and security forces used tear gas to disperse the crowds.





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## Hadis Najafi Karaj (September 21, 2022)

Hadis Najafi was born on January 5, 2000, and was killed by security forces on September 21, 2022 on Eram Boulevard in Mehrshahr, Karaj. She died of injuries resulting from more than 20 pellet wounds to her face, neck and chest. Her family was pressured to declare that Hadis had suffered a stroke and died of natural causes. Security forces pressured and threatened the family ensure they would not publicize her death. Hadis' body was not handed over to the family until two days later. They forced Hadis' father to repeat the fictitious account of her "natural" death for TV cameras and news reports broadcast on state-run radio and TV.



Hadis' friends describe her as a happy, free spirited, and independent girl who loved to dance. The videos posted on her TikTok page show that Hadis enjoyed dancing and was a passionate person. A friend described Hadis as an energetic and "constantly happy friend, it was impossible to be in a bad mood in her presence. She always had a smile on her face, was always on the side of justice, and wouldn't let anyone, anywhere bully her or us. She even defended me once. Just like the night she went to defend justice and became a martyr... She loved dancing, loved music, and loved happiness..."

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However, according to people close to her, "she was extremely angry and upset after Mahsa Amini was killed and had said that she would never waver from seeking justice."

Protesters attended the 40th day service for Hadis Najafi. Security forces attacked protesters and fired tear gas. A number of protesters clashed with security and basij paramilitary forces. Some protesters were arrested and many were arrested on that day.





## Ghazaleh Chalabi Amol (September 21, 2022)

Ghazaleh Chalabi, born in 1989, was a climber, athlete, and banking management graduate who died 5 days after going into a coma on September 21. According to reports, IRGC officers shot her directly from inside Amol's governor's building as she was filming protests on her mobile phone. The video she was shooting was posted on social media shortly after her death. Mazandaran Provincial Intelligence Police denied the authenticity of the video and attributed Ghazaleh's death to shots fired by protesters from behind.



Her aunt said in an interview that while Ghazaleh was in coma, her parents were repeatedly threatened by security forces, to prevent them from disclosing information about the nature of her death.



They were told that "if they make a fuss," or publicize the case, Ghazaleh's body would be withheld from the family and buried by officials in an undisclosed location. Security agents further threatened to retaliate against Ghazaleh's brother. Although Ghazaleh had filled out organ donation cards twice, officials did not allow her family to honor donate her organs and honor her wishes. According to Ghazaleh's aunt, security officials were concerned that doing so would "mythicize Ghazaleh."

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One of Ghazaleh's friends explained that: "she loved to hitchhike and go on nature travels. Ghazaleh always kept up with the latest novels, was kind to everyone, lent an ear to friends in need and she looked after sick and hungry stray dogs. On Fridays, she would head out at 4 AM to one of the mountain peaks surrounding Amol. As a climber, she had conquered Alam Kooch, Damavand, and many other major peaks in Iran. She ran every day to stay in shape for climbing. Ghazaleh was one of those women who would take off her headscarf wherever she could."

On the day of Ghazaleh's burial, security agents were present in large numbers and were filming the attendees for intimidation. The Intelligence Office has repeatedly summoned her family members and threatened them over the phone. Ghazaleh's 40th day ceremony was held on November 3 in Amol, Mazandaran, and became the scene of a mass protest. Government security forces attacked the attendees and assaulted and battered the protesters.





## Hananeh Kia Kajouri Nowshahr (September 21, 2022)

Hananeh Kia Kajouri was born in 1999 and was a 23-year-old woman who was shot and killed by security forces near Azadi Square in Nowshahr. According to a relative, she was shot on September 21 on her way home from the dentist. She had been engaged for three months and was preparing for her wedding.

Hananeh worked from home as a hairdresser and is survived by her younger sister. A relative told Radio Zamaneh: "She was very calm, quiet and serene. I am shocked that she was killed without doing anything wrong."



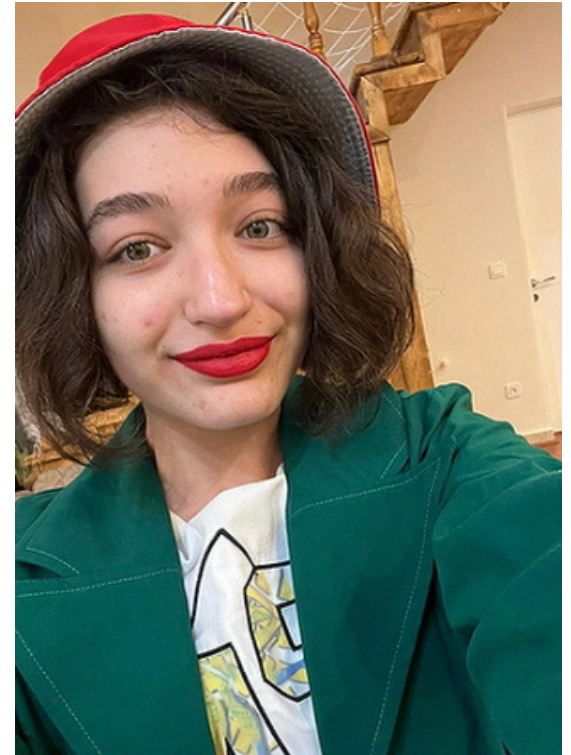
Security forces harassed Hananeh's family and refused to hand over her body to them for some time. She was buried in the al-Jawad cemetery between Nowshahr and Chalus. Her 40th day ceremony was held in Nowshahr on November 2, 2022. Crowds of protesters attended and chanted slogans against the Islamic Republic. Security forces fired teargas and shot pellet guns at those who gathered near her home.

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## Sarina Esmailzadeh

Mehrshahr, Karaj  
(September 21, 2022)

Sarina Esmailzadeh, a 16-year-old teenager from Mehrshahr, Karaj, was born in July 2006 and was a student at a school for the gifted and talented. She was killed on September 21 after security forces beat her on the head with batons. Sarina had a YouTube channel, and her video posts reveal that she was a teenager who was concerned with societal issues, advocated social freedoms and was opposed to mandatory hijab.



Sarina wrote poetry, loved books, movies, and music, aspired to be a vlogger, and shared her poems and heartfelt writings on her popular Telegram channel. Reportedly, Sarina's body was handed over to her family by the security officers after having been washed and shrouded at Behesht Sakineh morgue. Her mother was only able to see her face at the burial.

The Chief Justice of Alborz Province claimed that Sarina had not been killed but had committed suicide, and forced her mother to declare the cause of death as suicide in a televised confession.



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After Sarina's burial, it was revealed that the family was pressured to corroborate the judiciary's false account of Sarina's death, or else they would not turn her body over to the family for burial. Since her death, Sarina's uncles, one of whom was her legal guardian, had been summoned several times to Branch 13 of the Karaj District 1 Prosecutor's Office. They were pressured to file a complaint against those who had denied Sarina's suicide story and offered other accounts of her killing. Sarina's murder has been confirmed by Amnesty International and the Norway-based Iran Human Rights Organization.



## Mahsa Mogoui Fooladshahr (September 22, 2022)

Mahsa Mogoui, 19, a taekwondo and fitness champion, was shot dead by security forces in Fooladshahr on September 22. However, the Islamic Republic claimed that Mahsa Mogoui was not present at the protests and forced her father into a televised confession to corroborate their version. But later, while holding a large photo of his daughter, Mr. Mogoui, issued a video statement in which he said that his daughter was present at the protests and was martyred innocently.



He stated that for 40 days in a row, he had followed up with the authorities to track down the perpetrators and had received no response. He vowed not to remain silent and to continue to seek justice for his daughter. Mahsa Mogoui had a black belt in taekwondo and had won numerous medals. She also had won a number of medals in physical fitness in Isfahan province.



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Security forces tried to keep Mahsa's murder silent by pressuring her family, and in return gave them the right to file a complaint. Mogoui's family did not accept this compromise. Mahsa's 40th day ceremony was held on November 3 in Fooladshahr. Large groups of protesters marched after the ceremony and chanted slogans against the Islamic Republic.



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## Setareh Tajik Tehran (September 22, 2022)

Setareh, a 17-year-old Afghan immigrant living in Tehran, was killed on September 22. According to first-hand accounts reported to Amnesty International, she had severely fractured bones on her face and body and her death was a result of beatings by Iranian security forces. The official burial permit issued by the medical examiner states that her death was due to "multiple injuries caused by being hit by a hard object." This finding was confirmed by Amnesty International.



According to Amnesty International, security and intelligence officers have pressured the family to keep silent through "warnings, threats, and intimidation." An Afghan diplomatic source in Iran confirmed in an interview with Deutsche Welle that they have received a complaint about the killing of an Afghan teenager during the Iranian protests. It is unclear whether Setareh participated in protests and investigations are ongoing in this respect.



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## Shirin Alizadeh Mazandaran (September 22, 2022)

Shirin Alizadeh, born on August 16, 1986, was shot to death while traveling in Mazandaran province, near Motel Ghoo. In the minutes prior to her death by gun shot, she filmed on her cell phone, protesters clashing with security forces stationed in the Basij base. The moment of her death was recorded on her cell phone, which was later widely shared on social media. At the time of her shooting, Shirin's 7-year-old son was in the car with her and witnessed his mother's death.



Security forces held Shirin's body hostage for a month in order to pressure her family into burying her quietly and without publicity. On social media there were reports of security forces threatening the victim's family with arrest and "elimination" if they objected.

In the end, and after repeated threats against her family members, Shirin's body was released to her family, who were allowed to transfer her to her home town of Isfahan, and bury her, on the condition that they would not publicize the burial ceremony.

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The burial was carried out with government security forces. Plainclothes security officers were present amidst the crowd of mourners. The death certificate indicates that Shirin was "hit by an accelerated metal object (bullet)" resulting in her death. Shirin's 40th Day memorial service was held on November 4, at the Rezvan Garden Cemetery in Isfahan. Plainclothes and armed police officers used batons, tear gas, tasers, sonic bombs and pellet guns to disperse the mourners. Many were injured from pellet gunshots, including Shirin Alizadeh's mother and uncle.

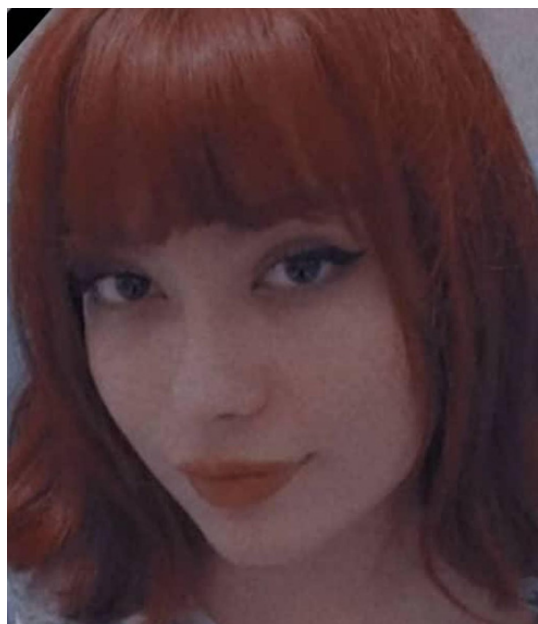




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## Bahar Khorshidi Robat Karim (September 23, 2022)

Bahar was born on December 4, 1999, in Tehran. She had a degree in English translation from Islamshahr Azad University and was studying for a master's degree in translation. Bahar was a language teacher and painter and lived in Robat Karim County in Tehran. On September 23, Bahar and her 18-year-old sister left their home in Sadaf Residential Complex on Farhangian Street in Robat Karim and according to reports, they began distributing handouts with "Mahsa Amini" and "Woman, Life, Freedom" hashtags written on them.



According to a neighbor, they were identified and tailed by plainclothes security officers. Once they realized they were being followed, the sisters went to a sewing shop where their mother was. At the urging of one of the neighbors, Bahar was swiftly escorted back home.

Bahar's 18-year-old sister and her mother were arrested when the officers raided the sewing shop. They were taken to the IRGC headquarters in Robat Karim. A few hours later, security forces who had followed Bahar entered her home to arrest her. Bahar's 11-year-old sister and eight-year-old brother were also inside the house, at the time.

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Bahar plummeted from the fourth-floor window of her home, while security forces were attempting to arrest her. Bahar's body was buried the same day in Salehiyeh Cemetery in Robot Karim's Imamzadeh Bagher cemetery, with the heavy presence of security agents. Bahar's cause of death was declared to be suicide. After a few days, under immense pressure from security forces, Bahar's family was forced to leave their home and city and move to a province in the northern part of Iran.





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## Zulikha Tarzi Zahedan (September 30, 2022)

Zulikha Tarzi, an 88-year-old Afghan national living in Zahedan, was killed as a result of tear gas inhalation, while in the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, on Friday September 30, which later came to be known as “Bloody Friday.” Her identity was revealed 74 days after her death. Security forces pressured Zulikha Tarzi’s family to keep silent about her death by threatening not to renew their residency card.



## Hasti Narouei Zahedan (September 30, 2022)

Hasti Narouei was one of the children killed in Zahedan on “Bloody Friday” by the security forces. Hasti was 7 years old. She was to start first grade a wee later. Hasti came from a poor family and her father worked as a day laborer. She had gone to the Mosalla of Zahedan with her grandmother, and was killed as a result of blows to the head and inhalation of tear gas during an attack by government forces.

## Asra Panahi Khanghah Ardebil (October 12, 2022)

According to eyewitnesses, on October 12, 2022, plainclothes security forces attacked students at Shahed girls' high school in Ardebil after a number of students refused to perform the pro-government song "Hello Commander" and instead chanted "death to the dictator" and other anti-government slogans. Security forces assaulted and arrested a number of students, including 16-year-old Asra Panahi.



Asra was seriously injured during the attack and later died as a result of sustained injuries at Fatemi Hospital in Ardebil. Sources close to the events reported to Ham-Mihan newspaper that the assault had occurred inside the school and seven students were taken to Fatemi Hospital with injuries. However, "the hospital did not admit any of them and their names weren't registered on hospital forms."

Ham-Mihan further reported that one of the students was in critical condition.



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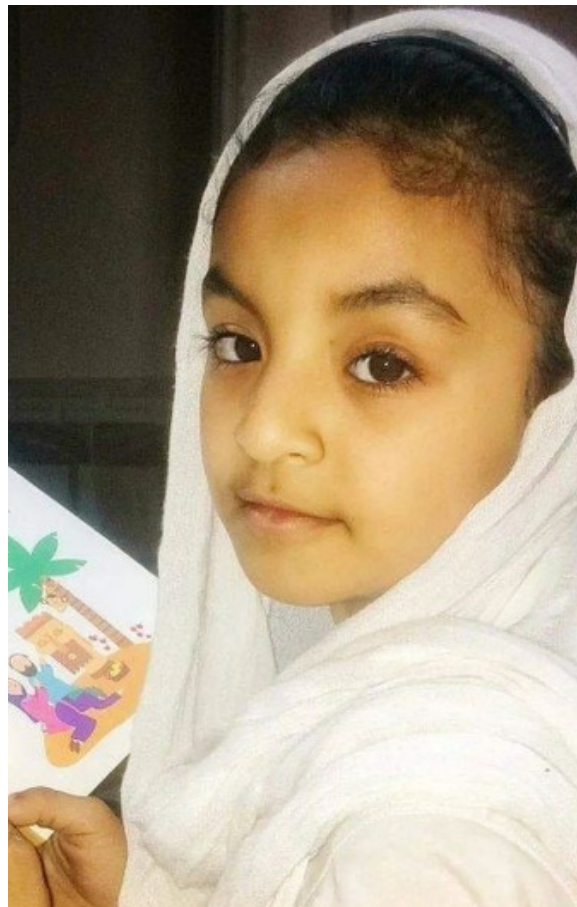
Fatemi Hospital in Ardebil spokespersons responded to reports about the transfer of injured students to its facilities, by claiming that no students from Shahed High School had been admitted to the hospital and that no death certificate had been issued for a person named Asra Panahi Khanghah. The Ardebil Teachers' Union has however, confirmed that Asra was a student at Shahed High School and that she lost her life on the day of the attack.



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**Mona Naghib**  
**Saravan**  
**(October 23, 2022)**

Mona Naghib, an 8-year-old student, was shot in the head by Saravan intelligence officers in the village of Aspich in Sistan and Baluchestan province. She and her older sister, Maryam, were on their way to school when intelligence officers opened fire on the vehicle that was used to transport students. Maryam, Mona's older sister, carried Mona on her shoulder to their father in order to obtain medical care, but Mona still lost her life.





## Parmis Hamnava Iranshahr (October 25, 2022 )

The Baluch Activists Campaign, a human rights group with close ties to the Baluchi Community, reported that on October 25 a female student lost her life after being beaten by military forces in the county of Iranshahr in Sistan and Baluchestan Province. Military forces were searching the students and their books on that day. According to reports Parmis was "severely beaten in front of other students" after military personnel noticed the picture of the founder of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Khomeini, had been torn out of Parmis' book.



Parmis suffered a broken nose and severe bleeding as a result of these beatings and was transferred to "Iran Hospital" in Iranshahr county. The injuries and blood loss were so severe that they resulted in the death of Parmis the next day. Following this development, the Department of Education issued a statement denying the killing of a student at Parvin Etesami school in Iranshahr County. The Prosecutor of the city of Zahedan also announced that no students in Iranshahr county were killed or even summoned by police. According to Haal Vash, a human rights group reporting on the situation of the Baluchi community, on November 1, Iran's State Radio and Television Broadcasting, in Sistan and Baluchestan Province, interviewed a girl named Parmis Bameri at Parvin Etesami School and introduced her falsely as Parmis Hamnava. According to Haal Vash, security forces had threatened Parmis' family, as well as her teachers and fellow students, against speaking up about her death. In exchange for not publicizing information about the death of Parmis, security forces agreed to release her body to the family for burial.

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**Behnaz Afshari**  
Tehran  
(October 25, 2022)



Behnaz Afshari, a 23-year-old from Pakdasht area of Tehran, was an athlete who had ranked 22nd in the national university entrance exams. She had left home to join student protesters in Tehran, but never. Two days later, her father was contacted by the Kahrizak Forensic Medical Office to identify her body. Security agents told her father that Behnaz had committed suicide at a hotel by taking pills.

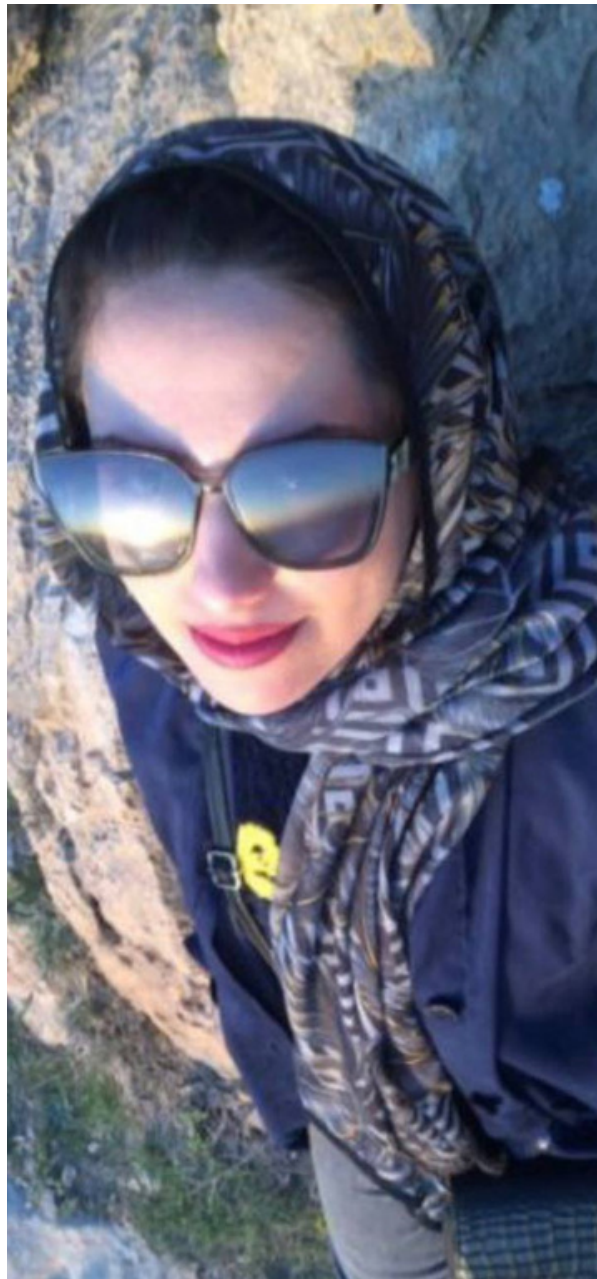


According to her relatives Behnaz was a joyful and lively woman who had been active in the protests following the death of Mahsa Jina Amini. Relatives also explained that Behnaz had not shown any signs of depression or suicidal tendencies. Security forces pressured the family to concur with their suicide story. However, her death certificate indicates that the cause of death is “under investigation.” Behnaz's family had insisted on seeing her body before autopsy to ensure its condition. However, authorities did not allow them to view the body.



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In the end, the family only managed to see Behnaz's face, which was covered in blood. Authorities had promised to turn over Behnaz's body to her family, once they had completed necessary legal procedures, so they could bury her. Despite these promises, Behnaz was transferred to Behesht-e Zahra cemetery for burial, without the permission or presence of her family.



**Maede Javanfar**  
**Rasht**  
**(October 26, 2022)**

Maede Javanfar was a 28-year-old nurse who died on October 26 in Rasht as a result of a brain injury due to severe baton blows to her head by government security forces. Her family was pressured to declare the cause of her death an accident. Mehr News Agency, a media outlet affiliated with the government, published footage of the scene of an accident in an attempt to refute claims that Maede was killed during protests.



However, Ali Javanfar, Maede's uncle, referred to the lies circulated online about his niece's death by saying: "they had published online accounts about Maede's car accident, stating Tiba as the make of the car, whereas she had sold that car at least two years ago." Maede's sister also stated in an interview that her father had lied, the accident was staged, and Maede was killed by security forces.



**Sarina Saedi**  
**Sanandaj**  
**(October 26, 2022)**

According to human rights organization Hengaw, 15-year-old Sarina Saedi suffered a brain hemorrhage from baton blows to the head by security forces on October 26, in the Naisar neighborhood in Sanandaj, in Kurdistan Province. She died on October 27. Although the family was told by Tohid Hospital staff that their daughter had internal bleeding from baton blows to her head, government agents forced Sarina's father, Hashem Saedi, to appear in front of state radio and TV (IRIB) cameras that night and claim that his daughter had committed suicide.

He was threatened that, if he did not attribute her death to suicide, that Sarina's body would not be handed over to the family.



In an interview with Zamaneh Media, Fereydoon Nosrati, Sarina's maternal uncle, explained that Sarina's family was under immense pressure and faced threats from security forces intent on ensuring they kept silent about the circumstance of her death. He was quoted as saying: "On Wednesday evening, protests broke out in Sanandaj and Naisar, where Sarina's family lives. It seems that Sarina also participated in protests in Naisar."

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Sarina's uncle further explained: "after Sarina returned home, her family realized that there is something wrong with her. She was confused and her clothes were covered in dust. Sarina died in her sleep, which led to the initial false assumption that she had committed suicide. However, after medical examinations at the hospital they were told that she was hit on the head with a baton."

Sarina's death certificate states the cause of her death as unknown. While accounts of Sarina's death differ, the securitized approach of authorities toward her death confirms suspicions that she was in fact killed as a result of police violence. Around 2:30 a.m. on October 28, Sarina's body was transported by an ambulance, accompanied by two police cars to Behesht Mohammadi Cemetery, where she was buried. Only six or seven family members were allowed to attend Sarina's burial.





## Kobra Sheikh Saqqa Mahabad (October 27, 2022)

Kobra Sheikh Saqqa, 55, from the village of Dey Molla in Choom Majid Khan and a resident of Mahabad, was killed by the security forces on October 27 during the protests in Mahabad. Her funeral was widely attended by crowds who chanted slogans against the Islamic Republic.



At the memorial ceremony marking the 40th day of the death of Kobara and other protesters killed in Mahabad on October 27th, large crowds of gathered and chanted “martyrs don’t die.” The families of a number of those killed were not permitted to attend the ceremony and the presence of large numbers of security forces prevented many from attending memorial ceremonies as well.

## Fereshteh Ahmadi Mahabad (October 27, 2022)

Fereshteh Ahmadi, a 32-year-old mother of two young children and a resident of Mahabad, was shot and killed by security forces on October 27. The Islamic Republic claimed that she was not killed during the protests and was instead shot at her home. In a video message, Fereshteh Ahmadi's brother, Ebrahim Ahmadi, denied these claims and confirmed that she had been shot dead by Islamic Republic's security forces. Pro-government Fars News Agency claimed that "Fereshteh Ahmadi's brother's video recording was incited by the counter-revolutionary media."



According to human rights organization Hengaw, Fereshteh Ahmadi was on the roof at her house during protests in Mahabad, when she was directly targeted and shot in the chest by government security forces. Security agents demanded that her burial be carried out on the night of her killing.



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This demand was met with a strong opposition from her family. However, the family was not allowed to transfer Fereshteh's body to her birthplace, Sardasht. Fereshteh's funeral was held the day after her death on Friday in Hamzeabad village in Mahabad. Images showing her young daughter crying at her mother's grave were circulated widely inside and outside of Iran and sparked international reactions.



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**Nasim Sedghi**  
**Urmia**  
**(October 31, 2022)**



Nasim Sedghi, 23, died from shots to her forehead and chest during protests on October 31 in Urmia. According to Yashar Hakkakpour, director of the Association for the Defense of Azerbaijani Political Prisoners in Iran (ADAPP), Nasim was from Shahin Dej (Sayyin Qala) in West Azerbaijan and had gone to Urmia to participate in protests and was shot dead by security forces.



Nasim had told her family that she was going to Urmia for hairdressing lessons, but instead she had joined the protesters. Her family was pressured to declare the cause of her death as an accident and her father was forced to make a televised confession in this regard. Finally, on the night of November 2, her body was handed over to the family and she was buried in Shahin Dej cemetery under tight security. Only her father was allowed to attend the burial. She was buried without her mother present.



# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

## Nasrin Qaderi Tehran (November 4, 2022)

Nasrin Qaderi, 35, was a Ph.D. student in Philosophy from Marivan. According to human rights organization Hengaw, she had participated in protests in Tehran on November 4, where she suffered from multiple baton blows to her head, went into a coma, and later died in a hospital in Tehran. Pro-government media published a video of Nasrin Qaderi's father attributing his daughter's death to "illness."



Her body was transferred to Marivan without her family members present. Security forces pressured Nasrin's family not to allow members of the public to attend her burial. A number of people in her hometown headed to her father's home to attend the funeral, but were stopped by security forces before arriving at their destination.

# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS



At the memorial ceremony marking the third day of Nasrin's death, her brother, Akoo Qaderi, implied that his family was pressured and his father's interview was coerced by saying "In my sister Nasrin Qaderi's case, the cause of death is stated as being unknown and suspicious. The forensic medical examiner has not determined the cause of death. I hope there won't be any misunderstandings regarding my father's appearance in that interview. He appeared in that interview with tears in his eyes and a heavy heart. Our hope is that you will judge us based on the present circumstances."

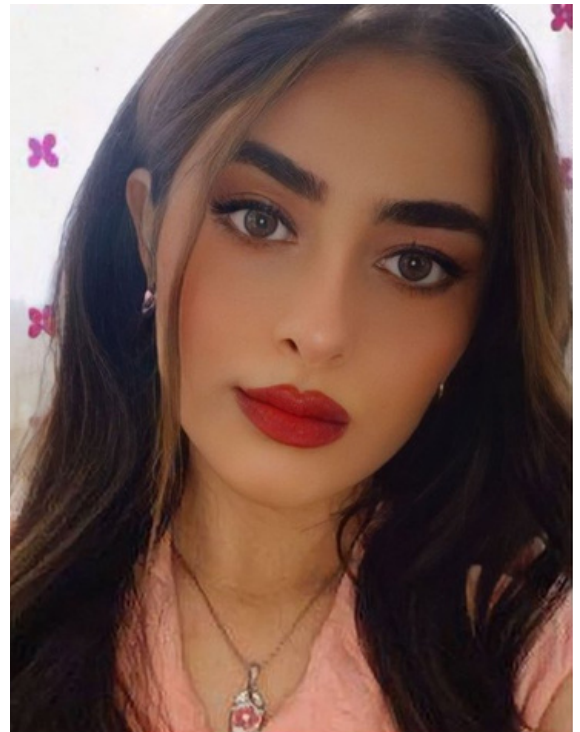




# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

## Aylar Haghi Tabriz (November 16, 2022)

Aylar Haghi, 23, was a medical student at Tabriz University and was killed in Tabriz on November 16. The head of the Police Intelligence in East Azerbaijan claimed that she died as a result of an accident by "falling in the excavation site next to Shahrn Tower in Tabriz." Police also announced that they have identified and detained three individuals in connection with her death.



A close relative of Aylar Haghi told Radio Farda on November 18, that in order to be given Aylar's body, the family of the slain protester was under pressure from the Islamic Republic's security forces to concede that Aylar had died as the result of a fall, when in fact she was shot directly from behind. The relative added that like many other young people in Iran, Aylar was hopeful about the future and urged young people to go to the streets to protest.

According to the IranGate website, Mahmoud Jafari, Aylar Haqqi's uncle, also denied the story of her fall, saying that she had "participated in demonstrations on November 16.

## WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

"They shot her from close range from behind with a pellet gun. Her death was caused by direct gunshot." In their interviews, both relatives confirmed that the family was being pressured by state security forces to claim that Aylar died as a result of a fall, which is the government's official account of her death.

Large crowds turned up for Aylar Haghi's funeral on November 18 at the Vadi Rahamt cemetery in Tabriz. Protesters chanted slogans such as "We are all Aylar, Let's fight together" and "Condolences, condolences." State security forces attacked the protesters at the ceremony, beating them with batons.





**Atefeh Naami**  
**Karaj**  
**(26 November, 2022)**

The decomposing body of Atefeh Naami, a civil society activist and an Arab protester from Ahvaz, was found at her home in Karaj on the evening of November 26. She was an independent 37 year-old woman who had a degree in architecture from Azad University and was living by herself in an apartment in Karaj, near the capital Tehran. Mizan News Agency quoted Hossein Fazeli Harikandi, the chief justice of Alborz Province as saying: "According to the police report, on November 26, a person informed the police station that he had not heard from his fiancée for a few days. He and his fiancée's niece had gone to her apartment with a locksmith. After opening the door, they noticed that the deceased had committed suicide on her balcony."



Atefeh's family rejected the government's claims of suicide. Mohammad Amin Naami, Atefeh's brother, told IranWire "This was all staged. Not only would Atefeh not consider suicide in principle, but in light of her involvement in the recent women's uprising, the timing would be implausible.

# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

According to him, a criminal investigator who was at the scene, based on clinical observations and without knowledge of Atefeh's background, had announced that her death was suicide. Naami's family believe Atefeh was probably arrested and died under torture. The authorities then brought her body back to her home to stage it as suicide. According to Naami's family, two days later security forces buried Atefeh's body in the Karaj cemetery "hastily and by misleading the family, and in the presence of only a few of the female family members."





# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

## Donya Farhadi Ahvaz (December 7, 2022)

Donya Farhadi, 22, was from Izeh and an architecture student at Ahvaz Azad University. She was killed by Basiji and plainclothes forces. She went missing on December 6, Student Day in Iran, near the coastal boulevard around Cable Bridge area. Her parents searched for her for a week to no avail. After over a week, on December 15, her family was contacted and informed that her lifeless body had been found far from the city and on the shores of the Karoon river. Iranian state media declared her cause of death as "suicide."



On the eve of Donya's memorial ceremony marking the 40th day after her death, the Student Union Council, a national volunteer student body, reported that Donya was present at the student protests on December 7 and had a verbal confrontation with the University Basij forces, a volunteer paramilitary force, which carries out crackdowns on behalf of the government, and is present in the University setting as well as other locations.

# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

On December 7, Donya had told her mother that she was meeting an unidentified friend at 9 p.m. Donya made a call to her father at 10:00 p.m. She disappeared after that. Her phone was tracked in an effort to find her last location, which was near the Karoon Bridge. Blood was found on the ground near Donya's last location. The blood was later confirmed as belonging to Donya. For four days, security forces did not allow divers to search for her in the Karoon river. Finally, 8 days later on December 15, her lifeless body was found by fishermen in Koot Abdollah, and her family noticed that their daughter had been shot.



# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

## Aida Rostami Tehran (December 12, 2022)

Aida Rostami, 36, was a compassionate physician who volunteered frequently and anonymously providing medical assistance at her home to protesters who had been shot or injured by the security forces. She disappeared on December 12, and her lifeless body with signs of torture was handed over to her family. The medical examiner stated her death was caused as a result of “being hit by a hard object.” According to her family, one side of her face was smashed, her eyes were taken out and sewn shut, and her hand was broken.



According to some sources, the medical examiner was ordered to declare the cause of death as “being hit by a hard object” and to tell the family that her death was an “accident.” However, the forensics medical examiner informed the family that the cause of death was definitely not an accident and that Aida was killed. When Aida's family insisted on seeing the body, it became clear to them that she had been killed and her death was not an accident.



# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

Mizan News Agency, affiliated with the judiciary, called accounts of “torture and murder” of Aida as “tales made up by counter-revolutionary media.” The Mizan News Agency report denied that Aida had been killed by security forces.

The Islamic Republic security officials claim that Aida committed suicide by throwing herself off a bridge near Azadi Square. The Society of Students Against Poverty (Jamieyat Imam Ali), an independent civic organization which was dissolved in 2021 on order of the judiciary, announced that Aida Rostami had cooperated with the organization and provided medical care to patients in need on a voluntary basis. Furthermore, they claimed that Aida had continuously cooperated with the Society’s aid group following the earthquake in Kermanshah and provided medical exams to children in marginal neighborhoods. According to reports, Aida also volunteered with a number of other humanitarian groups.

Aida's memorial marking the 7th day of her death was held on December 20, in Gorgan, in the north of Iran. Large crowds attended her memorial and despite the presence of government security forces and the securitized setting of the memorial, those present chanted slogans against the Islamic Republic.



## Maryam Esmailzadeh Faal Tehran (December 15, 2022)

Maryam Esmailzadeh Faal, 39, had an associates degree in architecture and was a resident of Niavaran, Tehran. She was shot dead by security forces on December 15 after leaving her home. Her body was handed over to her family and was buried in Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery under tight security. Her death certificate, issued by the Tehran Forensics Medical Examiner's office, declares the cause of her death as "being hit by a hard object." Behesht-e Zahra organization has also stated the cause of her death as "multiple injuries caused by hard objects."



Maryam's brother explained: "My sister Maryam was killed by three gunshot wounds to the chest and heart. Her lifeless body wrapped in plastic was handed over to our family under tight security. None of our family members were allowed to remove the plastic and see her body."



# WOMEN KILLED DURING PROTESTS

According to Maryam's brother, the family was under intense pressure from security agencies to declare cardiac arrest as her cause of death on social media. Maryam had previously been diagnosed with breast cancer and was able to beat the disease. She worked in a nail salon on nail implants and nail design before her death.





## Zar Bibi Esmaeil Zehi Zahedan (February 20, 2023)

Zar Bibi Esmaeil Zehi, 60, left her home with her grandchild on September 30, 2022, also referred to as Zahedan's Bloody Friday. She went out of the house in an effort to calm her grandchild, and was shot by security forces. The shooting resulted in injuries to her shoulder blade and months of disability during which she was confined to bed.

In an interview regarding Zahedan's Bloody Friday Zar Bibi had explained: "that afternoon, they shot so many bullets up in the air that bullets were falling on our heads like pebbles."

After nearly five months of intolerable pain, Zar Bibi died on February 20, 2023 from a severe infection caused by bedsores.



**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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