

## Women Arrested During National Protest In Iran

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### Introduction

The January 2026 protests in Iran, which began on December 28, in Tehran's Bazar in response to the rapid devaluation of the Iranian currency, quickly transformed into national protests demanding an end to corruption and political change. On January 8th and 9th, following calls from diaspora based opposition promoted by diaspora television broadcast channels, the numbers of those participating in protests grew significantly. Security forces responded with brutal and unprecedented violence, massacring thousands of largely peaceful citizens demanding change. Iranian authorities imposed an internet and communications shutdown on the 8th of January. While some internet connectivity has

been restored, the majority of Iranians continue to be denied access to the internet and international telephone communications continue to face restrictions.

Given the internet shutdown, the process of verifying numbers of those arrested and killed has been slow and difficult. However, human rights groups report that at least 6,900 persons were killed, with some claims placing that number around 30,000. Reports indicate that nearly 50,000 have been detained nationwide as a result of the protests.

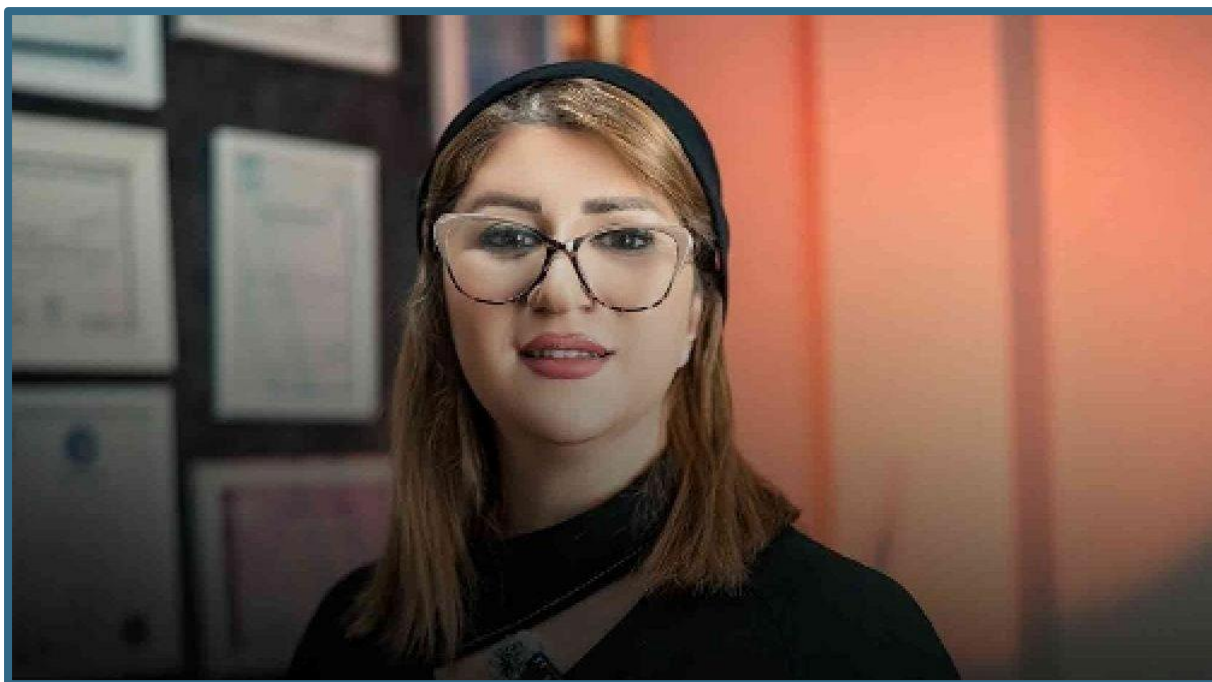
According to reports from human rights organizations and lawyers, many families remain unaware of the whereabouts of detainees or the charges brought against them. Reports further indicate that many of the detained protesters face serious charges, including fabricated charges supported by forced confessions. The charges against protests will likely result in long prison sentences with some charges carrying the death penalty. The judiciary's emphasis on issuing fast-track and "deterrent" verdicts raises serious concerns about due process and the treatment of those in custody. Due to restrictions under Article 48 of Iran's Criminal Procedure Law, many detainees are denied access to independent legal counsel and are instead limited to judiciary-approved lawyers. This practice violates the right to a fair trial and undermines fundamental due process guarantees.

There are also grave concerns regarding detainees' access to medical care. Human rights organizations have documented cases in which the denial of medical treatment has been used as a punitive measure, in some instances resulting in death. Detainees with pre-existing medical conditions are particularly at risk. Meanwhile, state media continues to broadcast forced confessions, which are commonly extracted through psychological pressure, torture, and physical abuse, in clear violation of international prohibitions against torture and the right against self-incrimination.

Detainees urgently require sustained attention and support from the international human rights community. In this context, Femena has undertaken efforts to collect and document information on detained women protesters, including women human rights defenders (WHRDs). Although some of these women have been released on bail at the time of writing, they continue to face the risk of prosecution and lengthy prison sentences. Given the high number of detainees, it remains difficult to track individual cases and provide regular updates on their status. Femena's aim is to ensure visibility, highlight the names of arrested women, and amplify their voices.

Femena strongly urges the international community to hold Iranian authorities and security officials responsible for the massacre of thousands of peaceful protesters accountable and to pressure the Islamic Republic to immediately and unconditionally release all detainees, halt the execution of prisoners, and allow UN observers in the country to document and assess the situation on the ground.

We also strongly urge the international community to take serious and concrete measures to support those who have been harmed by this unprecedented crisis in Iran through comprehensive humanitarian and protection measures, including provision of psychosocial support for those impacted and relocation support for those fleeing persecution.



## 1. Ameneh Soleimani

**Released temporarily on bail after 17 days on February 4**

Dr. Ameneh Soleimani, Dermatologist and director of a hair and skin clinic in Ardebil, was arrested by security forces 12 days ago for admitting and treating protesters injured during the recent protests in the city.

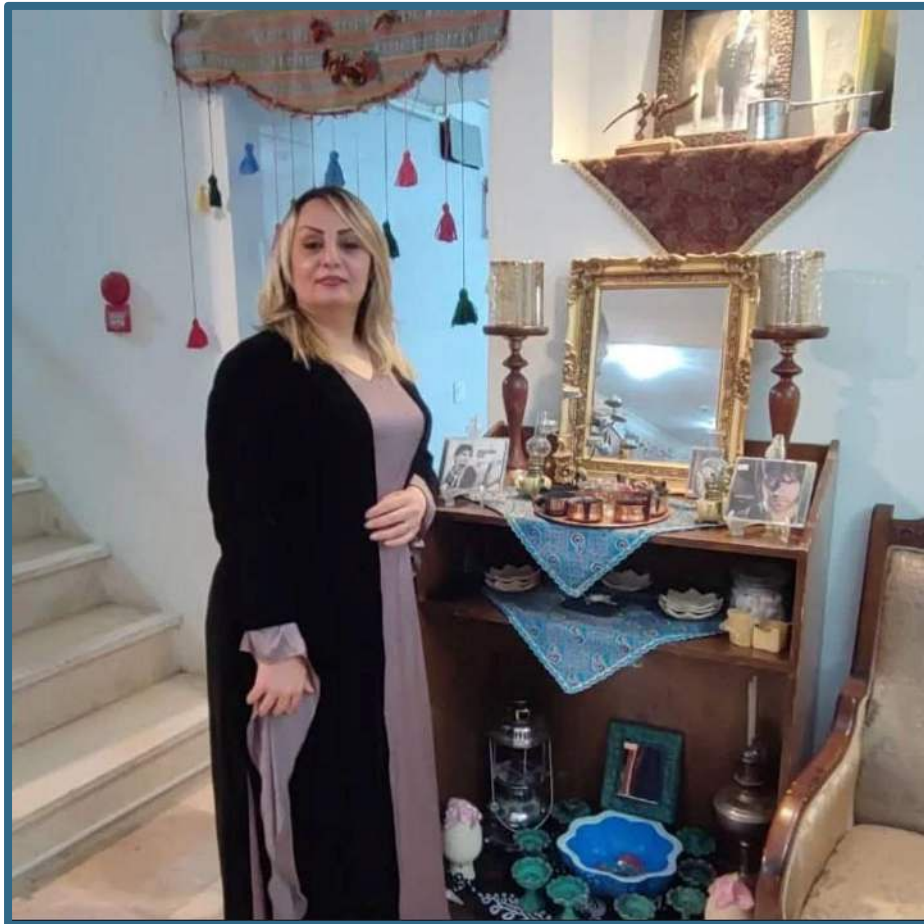
The arrest of Ameneh Soleimani is part of a broader pattern of direct pressure exerted on the medical community to deter healthcare professionals from providing treatment to injured protesters.

Reports indicate that the systematic repression of medical personnel has intensified. Several doctors who have been involved in treating and caring for the wounded in recent days have been arrested. Local sources report raids on temporary medical shelters and the detention of doctors who, without engaging in any political activity, were solely providing medical care to the injured.

Amnesty International has stated that “security forces repeatedly entered hospitals and arrested injured protesters who were receiving medical treatment, along with their family members.” Other reports point to acts of resistance by medical staff against security forces in an effort to protect their patients. The targeting of physicians and healthcare workers for providing medical treatment constitutes a clear violation of fundamental medical ethics, the professional obligations of healthcare providers, and internationally recognized human rights standards.

Moreover, healthcare workers have become some of the most critical witnesses to these violations, as they seek to document and report the number of those killed and injured.

Through arrests and intimidation, the authorities of the Islamic Republic are attempting to prevent the public disclosure of the full scale of the massacre and human rights violations that have taken place.



## 2. Shahrzad Rezaie

**Released on bail on January 31**

On Thursday, January 15th, Shahrzad Rezaie, an activist and women's rights defender from Sanandaj, was arrested in her private residence by security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to information received, security agents carried out the arrest without presenting a judicial warrant and transferred her to an unknown location.

Shahrzad Rezaei had previously been arrested due to her civil activism during the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement.

Reports indicate that many families have received no information regarding the fate or whereabouts of their detainees. When they repeatedly seek clarification from relevant authorities, they get no response. A significant number of detainees are being denied their fundamental rights as prisoners, including access to legal counsel, the right to communicate with their families, and the right to family visits.

These conditions substantially increase the risk of harsh sentences and the holding of unlawful trials.



### **3. Mahya Galedari**

#### **Missing Since January 14**

Mahya Galedari, A 30-year-old accountant from Tehran, has been reported missing since January 14, 2026. As stated by her relatives there has been no information about her whereabouts since that date.

According to Iranwire, Mahya Galedari ahdari was with friends on Thursday, January 14, 2026. She said goodbye to them to head home but never arrived. Since then, no one has had any information about her.

Her family has followed up with all relevant authorities, but her name is not registered anywhere and no institution has provided any response.

She lived on Pirouzi Street, one of the main areas of protests on January 7 and 8, where security forces opened fire on demonstrators and thousands were killed.

According to reports, many families have been left completely without information about their loved ones. They have found no trace of them among the names of those killed, nor among detainees, and there are no statistics or lists available of those who have been disappeared.



#### **4. Parisa Bakhtiari**

Parisa Bakhtiari, 33, was arrested by security forces on January 10, 2026, during which her mobile phone and personal laptop were also confiscated. Since the time of her arrest, her family and close relatives have had no information about her fate, and all efforts to obtain news about her situation have been unsuccessful. No information has been released regarding her condition, place of detention, or possible charges.

Parisa Bakhtiari, born in February 1993, is the wife of the late Mohammad Bozorgi, a well-known Iranian professional skydiver who lost his life in February 2021 after his parachute failed to open during a commemorative jump honoring the victims of the Plasco Building.

According to reports, many families have been left completely without information about their loved ones. They have found no trace of them among the names of those killed, nor among detainees, and there are no statistics or lists available of those who have been disappeared. If the lack of information continues, these cases may fall within the framework of enforced disappearance, a crime against humanity as defined in applicable international law.



## 5. Marzieh Moradveisi

### Released on bail on January 31

Marzieh Moradveisi is a women's rights activist and a member of the charity association "Zhianeh". On January 7<sup>th</sup>, she was arrested in Sanandaj (Kurdistan province), following a raid by security forces on her home without the presentation of a judicial warrant and was transferred to an unknown location. To date, no information has been released regarding her fate or place of detention. Efforts by her family and close associates to obtain information has been unsuccessful.

Moradveisi is a former teacher who was dismissed due to her activism, and she has previously faced multiple arrests and convictions:

In April 24, 2021, Marzieh Moradveisi was arrested by security forces without a judicial warrant and transferred to an unknown location. On November 6, 2021, she was tried in the branch no 1 of the Sanandaj Revolutionary Court, by Judge Saeedi, and was charged with "acting against national security." In May 2022, she was sentenced to two years imprisonment. In August 23, 2022, Branch Four of the Kurdistan Provincial Court of Appeal reduced her sentence to five months of Ta'zir imprisonment and four years of suspended imprisonment, with the suspension period set at four years.

In September 2025, coinciding with the third anniversary of the "Woman, Life, Freedom" uprising, Marzieh Moradveisi, along with four other well-known activists, was summoned to

the Intelligence Office of the IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) in Sanandaj, where they were subjected to interrogation and pressure to provide written pledges.



## **6. Rahleh Moeini**

Rahleh Moeini, a 23-year-old student from the Yousef-Abad neighborhood of Tehran and the only child of her family, went missing during protests on January 8 in Saadat Abad. According to received reports, she and one of her friends were injured by gunfire from government security forces and after being wounded, they reportedly took shelter in an alley and were waiting for a vehicle to transport them to a hospital. However, when the vehicle arrived, there was no trace of either of them. Since then, Rahleh's family has received no information regarding her fate or whereabouts.

Rahleh Moeini is a graduate of Biomedical Engineering from Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic) and is currently a master's student in Biomedical Engineering at Politecnico di Milano. She had returned to Iran prior to the protests to visit her family. She has also been active in the field of modeling and has collaborated with several fashion magazines. She was also vocal in her support of the protests on social media platforms, particularly on Twitter. Despite repeated follow-ups by her family, no official institution has acknowledged her arrest or provided any information about her condition. The family's concern has intensified as time passes with no clarification.



## **7. Golnar Naraghi**

Dr. Golnar Naraghi, 37, an emergency medicine specialist at Hashemi-Nejad Hospital, was arrested by security forces on January 14, 2026. After two weeks of detention in complete incommunicado custody, she has informed her family in a brief phone call that she has been transferred to the women's ward of Qarchak Prison. Since her arrest, Her family had remained unaware for two weeks of her whereabouts, the reason for her arrest, or the charges against her. Dr. Naraghi was transferred to the women's ward of Qarchak Prison on Thursday, January 29, 2026. Based on published reports, security and judicial authorities forced Dr. Golnar Naraghi to sign a document, the contents of which remain unknown.

The targeting of physicians and healthcare workers for providing medical treatment constitutes a clear violation of fundamental medical ethics, the professional obligations of healthcare providers, and internationally recognized human rights standards.

Moreover, healthcare workers have become some of the most critical witnesses to these violations, as they seek to document and report the number of those killed and injured. Through arrests and intimidation, the authorities of the Islamic Republic are attempting to

prevent the public disclosure of the full scale of the massacre and human rights violations that have taken place.



## **8. Laya Jabik**

Laya Jabik, who holds a master's degree in art and a bachelor's degree in architecture, along with her husband, Behzad Sehati, were arrested at their private residence in Tehran on Monday, January 26, 2026. Both are members of the academic staff at Pars University. The arrest took place while the couple's seven-year-old child was present at the scene and directly witnessed the arrest of both parents. no official information has been released regarding the arresting authority, the charges brought against them, or their place of detention, and their family members and relatives remain in complete uncertainty about their situation.

Based on reports, security forces took the two university lecturers from their home without providing any reason or official explanation. According to available information, Laya Jabik suffers from multiple sclerosis (MS) and requires continuous access to medication and medical care. The interruption of her access to medical services during detention has raised serious concerns regarding her physical condition and health.

According to reports by human rights organizations, Iran's judiciary has repeatedly used the denial of medical care as a punitive measure and as a tool to silence protesters, in some cases resulting in prisoners' deaths. Consequently, detainees who had pre-existing medical conditions and required ongoing treatment are also at serious risk of being denied medical care, endangering their health and lives.



## **9. Bayan Farajollahi**

On the morning of Sunday, January 4, 2026, Bayan Farajollahi, 36, a women's rights activist from Sanandaj, was arrested in the city by security forces and taken to an undisclosed location. no information is currently available regarding the status or whereabouts of this women's rights activist.

She has a prior history of arrest and judicial conviction. Previously, on Monday, July 17, 2023, Farajollahi was arrested during a raid by security forces of the ministry of intelligence on her private residence, without the presentation of a warrant or judicial order. After 41 days of solitary confinement and psychological pressure, she was charged with collaboration with opposition groups based outside the country and propaganda against the state. She was deprived of her fundamental rights, including access to family visits and during her detention, her physical and mental health significantly deteriorated. Ms. Farajollahi was eventually granted temporary release on bail set at two billion tomans on August 26, 2023. Following three court hearings and two summonses and interrogations, she was sentenced by the court to one year of Tazir imprisonment. The judge did not allow her lawyers to speak or defend her, and she was forced to defend herself alone and without legal representation. She denied all charges brought against her.



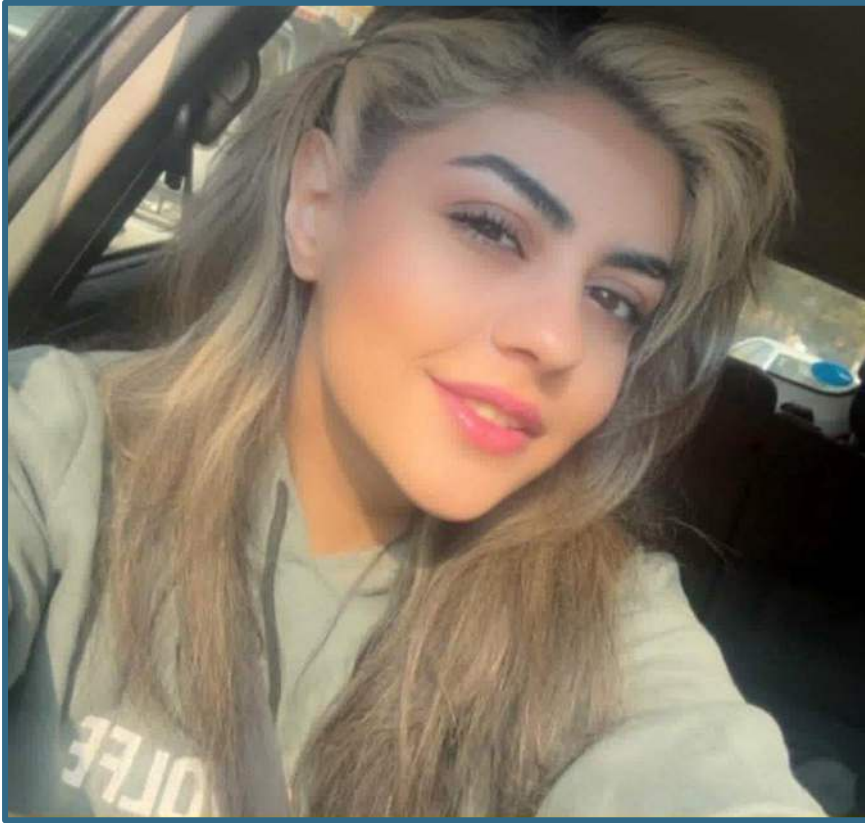
## **10. Kazhal Vatanpour**

Kazhal Vatanpour, a former political prisoner, holder of a master's degree in law, and a women's and children's rights defender, was arrested by security forces on January 8, 2025, during the January protests, in Gilan-e Gharb, Kermanshah Province.

According to published reports, the arrest was carried out without any official explanation, a clear judicial warrant, or immediate access to a lawyer. To date, there is no information available regarding her conditions of detention, place of custody, or the charges brought against her.

Kazhal Vatanpour had previously been arrested during the Woman, Life, Freedom movement. In September 2022, while returning home near the entrance of the Children's Park Library in Ilam, she was violently arrested by security forces. In the fall of the same year, she was sentenced to two years and six months of Tazir imprisonment on charges including "disruption of public order," "propaganda against the state," and "assembly and collusion against national security."

This sentence was later modified by the Court of Appeal to one year of imprisonment and six months of suspended imprisonment, along with a two-year travel ban, revocation of her passport, and mandatory participation in free legal counseling. In January 2023, she was summoned to the Ilam Judiciary, and was transferred to Ilam Prison, to serve her prison sentence.



### **11. Kazhal Shahi**

Kazhal Shahi, a theatre actress, was arrested on January 22, 2026, after security forces raided her home.

The family and friends of the artist are in a state of complete uncertainty and concern regarding her situation. As of this moment, no information has been released about the charges against her, her place of detention, or the conditions under which she is being held.

Reports indicate that many families have received no information regarding the fate or whereabouts of their detainees. When they repeatedly seek clarification from relevant authorities, they get no response. A significant number of detainees are being denied their fundamental rights as prisoners, including access to legal counsel, the right to communicate with their families, and the right to family visits. These conditions substantially increase the risk of harsh sentences and the holding of summary trials without legal representation.



## **12. Sara Hosseinzadeh**

Sara Hosseinzadeh, a part-time translator born in 1993, and a former political prisoner previously detained during the Woman, Life, Freedom protests, has been missing since January 19, 2026 in Urmia. To date, no information has been obtained regarding her whereabouts or physical condition.

After leaving her home to visit a friend on that day, her mobile phone was switched off, and since then, her family and friends have remained in a state of complete uncertainty. Concerns have increasingly grown that she may have been arrested in connection with the January protests.

Repeated efforts by Sara Hosseinzadeh's family and close contacts to seek information from relevant authorities have so far been unsuccessful. No official body or institution has acknowledged responsibility for her arrest or detention.

In her final Instagram post, Hosseinzadeh emphasized that she "has no illness, is not affiliated with any group or organization, has no intention of committing suicide, and is in full physical and mental health." The continued lack of information regarding her fate has raised serious concerns about the safety and well-being of this former political prisoner.

At the same time, her former cellmates -who were previously incarcerated with her in Urmia Prison and have recently spoken publicly about her disappearance- have been subjected to security threats by intelligence forces. They have been warned that if they

continue to share information, they too will face consequences similar to those imposed on Sara.

Days have now passed since Sara Hosseinzadeh's disappearance. There has been no confirmation of her arrest in connection with the protests, and her family has received no information confirming whether she is alive. According to reports, many families remain completely uninformed about the fate of their loved ones. They have found no trace of them among the names of those killed, nor among officially acknowledged detainees, and no statistics or lists exist regarding those who have disappeared.



### 13. Niloufar Pas

On Monday, January 19, 2026, Niloufar Pas, a 27 year old yoga instructor and resident of Kerman, was arrested by security forces and transferred to an unknown location. Days later, there is still no information available regarding her fate or whereabouts.

According to published reports, security forces have threatened Niloufar Pas's family, warning them not to disclose or publicize information about her arrest.

Many families remain entirely uninformed about the fate and whereabouts of their detainees. Despite repeated inquiries directed at judicial and security authorities, families have received no responses or clarifications.

A substantial number of detainees are being systematically denied their most basic rights as prisoners. These violations include denial of access to legal counsel, restrictions on communication with family members, and the refusal of the right to family visits.



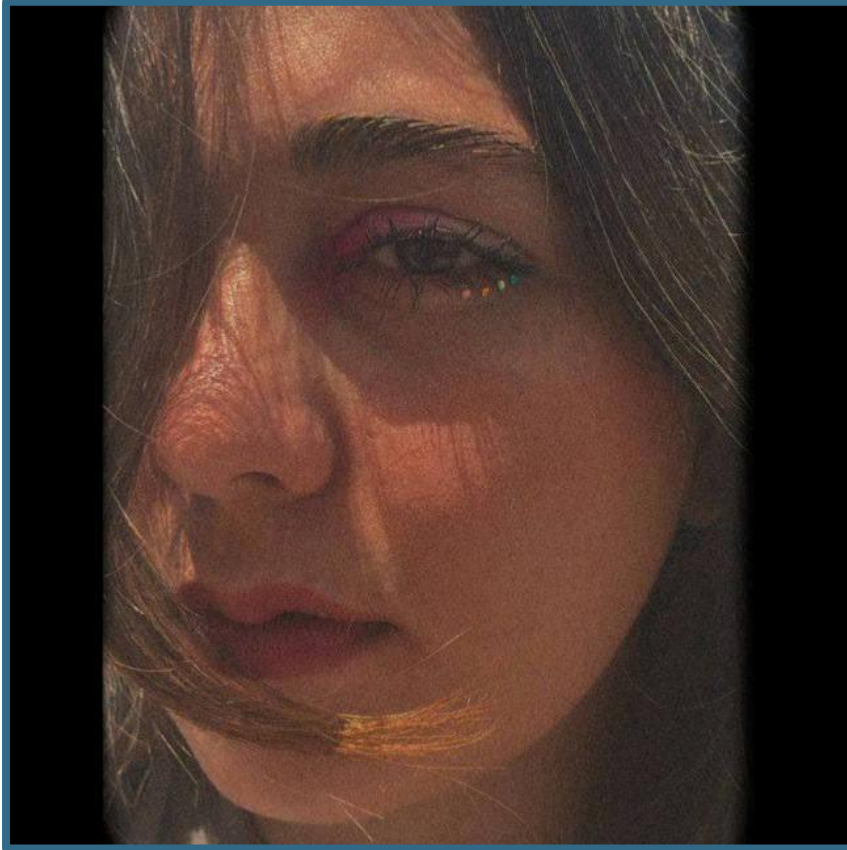
#### **14. Fatemeh (Delnavaz) Ramezani**

According to IranWire, Fatemeh (Delnavaz) Ramazani was arrested for possessing videos documenting the suppression of protesters in Fooladshahr. Her family has received no information regarding her place of detention or her current condition, and all efforts to obtain clarification from authorities have so far been unsuccessful.

Ramazani was arrested on January 18 after leaving her home for work, when security forces stopped her and searched her mobile phone. Subsequently, more than 15 security agents raided Delnavaz Ramazani's residence, confiscating all electronic and communication devices, including her mobile phone, laptop, and even flash drives, and removing them from the premises. Security forces also seized the mobile phones of her family members.

The stated reason for her arrest was her alleged possession of videos and images documenting the crackdown on protesters, as well as footage related to the burning of the Fooladshahr municipality building in Isfahan. The Ramazani family has been informed that she has been charged with "leading the protests."

Despite the fact that Delnavaz Ramazani had recently undergone back surgery, she was severely beaten by security forces during her arrest, placing her health and physical well-being in danger. Iran's judiciary has repeatedly used the denial of medical care as a punitive measure and as a tool to silence protesters.



### **15. Mahtab Salehi**

Mahtab Salehi, a 23-year-old student of French language at the University of Tabriz, was arrested in Tabriz during the January protests. For more than 20 days, no information about her condition or whereabouts was available. Her family was informed of her detention only after several weeks; however, at the same time, they were threatened by security agencies and warned not to publicize her case.

A bail of 1.3 billion tomans has been set for her temporary release. So far, there has been no direct contact from Mahtab Salehi with her family, and her physical condition and place of detention remain unknown. Human rights lawyers have stated that bail has been issued for some detainees, but prosecutors' offices are preventing families from accessing the relevant branches, making it impossible to post bail. For example, in one case, a family was informed that a two-billion-toman bail had been set for their child, yet they were not allowed to proceed or submit property deeds.

The situation at the University of Tabriz has been reported as alarming. A wave of arrests, confiscation of personal belongings, and increased security pressure against student activists has taken place. According to student organizations, at least eleven students from the University of Tabriz are currently in detention.

In response to these arrests, a group of students from the Faculty of Dentistry held a protest and sit-in on Tuesday, February 3. The students also organized memorial ceremonies for students who had been killed and demanded the release of all detained students, including those from the University of Tabriz. Previously, on Sunday, February 1, students from the Faculty of Pharmacy at the same university had held a similar sit-in.



#### **16. Venus Hossein-Nejad**

Venus Hossein-Nejad, 28 years old, was arrested at her workplace on January 15 by forces of the Intelligence Organization of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). Plainclothes security forces, without presenting a judicial warrant and while filming her, forcibly placed her in a vehicle and took her away.

Venus is a 28-year-old Baha'i citizen residing in Kerman. For 15 days following her arrest, despite repeated efforts and inquiries by her family, no information was provided regarding her place of detention or the authority responsible for her arrest.

Iran's state broadcaster (IRIB), in a report by Ameneh-Sadat Zabihpour, aired forced confessions from Venus Hosseinneshad along with four other detainees, including Shayan Shakibaie and Peyvand Naeimi. The report claimed that these individuals had been arrested in a "team house" and were involved in "organized destructive operations" in Kerman. However, contrary to these claims, Hossein-Nejad was arrested at her workplace. The broadcast of these forced confessions, obtained under pressure during detention, has raised serious concerns about the possibility of harsh and unjust sentences being imposed on the detainees.

In a phone call to her family, during which she was crying, Venus said that she was extremely exhausted and was banging herself against walls and doors. To date, her family

has not been permitted to visit her. Communication has been limited to brief and irregular phone calls, each lasting approximately three minutes and occurring every few days. Their contact with her has been limited to very brief phone calls of about three minutes, occurring irregularly every few days. During these calls, they were only able to hear her voice for a few moments, and she was not allowed to share any information about her place of detention, her treatment, or other details.

Venus Hosseinneshad's parents have published a letter describing Venus' situation and appealing to human rights organizations and all those who may be able to help them. They wrote:

"Our daughter suffers from bipolar disorder and has been under continuous treatment for the past 12 years and She continues to require specialized care, as clearly documented in her medical records. She devoted most of her time to educational and creative activities, including swimming instruction, painting, and other artistic and professional pursuits. Unfortunately, she was deprived of higher education because of her beliefs, but she has always loved her country, never intended to leave it, and has never taken any action against national security."

At the end of their letter, they wrote: "our daughter's life is in serious danger. We urgently need your support and assistance so that once again innocent blood is not unjustly shed."



### **17. Afsoon Alimoradian**

Afsoon Alimoradian, a woman human rights defender and social entrepreneur, was arrested amid the recent wave of mass arrests targeting activists and protesters in Iran. She has been engaged in community-based humanitarian and social work for more than 15 years. Her human rights work has focused on supporting disaster-affected communities, promoting women's entrepreneurship, and assisting underprivileged children through access to education and essential resources.

Through the civil initiative Yaran-e Nejat, she has played a central role in facilitating the release of more than 100 prisoners convicted of non-intentional crimes and in mediating reconciliation in numerous cases. In addition to prisoner support, her work has included creating employment opportunities, supporting livelihoods, and providing educational assistance such as stationery and learning equipment to students from low-income families.

Afsoon Alimoradian's work reflects a sustained commitment to social solidarity, community resilience, and the peaceful defence of social and economic rights in Iran.



### **18. Narges Heidari**

Narges Heidari, born in 1988, a fitness and bodybuilding coach from Izeh, was arrested by security forces at her workplace on Monday, January 18, 2026, and taken to an undisclosed location.

According to reports, she was detained after finishing her work while returning home. Since her arrest, no official information has been released regarding her condition or whereabouts.

Her brother, Nemat Heidari, had previously been arrested on January 9, 2026, during public protests in Izeh and was also transferred to an unknown location. The Heidari family remains unaware of the current status and location of both siblings.



### **19. Faezeh Rashidi**

According to IranWire, Faezeh Rashidi was injured and arrested on Saturday, January 3, 2026, near Ilam Hospital. Faezeh Rashidi had gone to Imam Khomeini Hospital in Ilam to donate blood to the injured, but was targeted by the weapons of the Islamic Republic's security forces. Despite being wounded, she was taken into custody and as of the time of this report, no information has been released regarding her place of detention or her physical condition.

Based on reports, following doctors' calls in Ilam for citizens to donate blood for injured protesters, Faezeh Rashidi travelled from the city of Badreh to Ilam Hospital and was shot by security forces near the hospital.

According to images circulated on social media on January 4, security forces violently raided Imam Khomeini Hospital in Malekshahi, Ilam Province, in an apparent attempt to abduct individuals injured during recent protests who had been transferred there for medical treatment. The footage shows security agents entering the hospital, firing live ammunition and tear gas, forcing open doors, storming patient rooms, and assaulting people inside using batons and military equipment.

Furthermore, reports by human rights organizations indicate that Iran's judiciary has repeatedly used the denial of medical care as a punitive tool. Such practices constitute a serious violation of detainees' fundamental rights, including the right to health, humane treatment, and protection from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment under international human rights law. This systematic deprivation places the health and lives of injured detainees in grave and immediate danger.



## 20. Kimia and Tara Davoudi

Tara Davoudi, a former student at the University of Isfahan, and Kimia Davoudi, a former law student at Razi University of Kermanshah, were arrested on January 14 in Tehran following a raid by security forces on their home, during which they were beaten.

Since their arrest, the two sisters have had only one brief phone call with their family, during which they stated that public lawyers would be assigned to them. To date, no information has been provided regarding the authority responsible for arrest, their location of detention, or the conditions under which they are being held.

Human rights lawyers report that a significant number of cases involving detainees from the 1404 protests<sup>1</sup> remain at the prosecutor's office stage. Due to the restrictions imposed by Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Law, independent lawyers are barred from representing many of these detainees, as only attorneys approved by the judiciary are permitted to take on such cases at this stage of the proceedings. The lack of transparency regarding the status of cases, combined with families' limited access to information and detainees' lack of access to independent legal representation, has significantly undermined the prospects for fair trials.

Denying detainees timely access to legal counsel and preventing effective communication with their families constitute serious violations of fundamental human rights standards, including the right to due process, the right to defense, and protection against arbitrary detention. These practices raise serious concerns about systemic violations of detainees' rights

