



Trapped Between Prison Walls and Airstrikes: Women Arrested During Iran's January Protests

Third Report

Date: 8/03/2026



Introduction

Between the publication of our second and third reports, while thousands of individuals arrested during the January protests remained detained in uncertain and opaque conditions, war erupted. In the early hours of Saturday, February 28, the United States and Israel—despite ongoing negotiations between the US and Iran—launched extensive airstrikes on Tehran, followed by attacks on numerous other cities across the country.

The strikes reportedly targeted military sites, local police stations, and key government buildings, including the Assembly of Experts and the residence of the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic.

On the first day of the attacks, the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, along with several senior commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), was killed. His death triggered sharply divided reactions across Iranian society. While many Iranians publicly celebrated the news, supporters of the Islamic Republic, gathered in large numbers to mourn.

This stark polarization—public expressions of joy on one side and grief and anger on the other—has further deepened social fractures within the country. Reports indicate that threatening text messages have been sent to citizens, warning that anyone taking to the streets in opposition to the government would be treated as an agent or soldier of Israel and the United States and would face severe consequences. Supporters of the government, angered by the killing of their leader and by visible public celebrations, appear poised to retaliate against perceived opponents.

According to figures released thus far, more than 1,000 people have been killed in the U.S. and Israeli attacks. On the first day alone, in addition to senior officials, a primary school in Minab, in southern Iran, was struck. The attack killed 165 elementary school children. The burial ceremonies for these children have become some of the most harrowing and tragic images of the war.

Within hours of the initial strikes, authorities imposed widespread internet disruptions, severely restricting communication between those inside Iran and the outside world. Amid reported cyberattacks—including the hacking of state television and several news agencies—international internet access was completely shut down. More than 100 hours later, the blackout continues.

Serious concerns have also emerged regarding the safety of detainees, including the thousands arrested during the January protests. Following an Israeli strike on Evin Prison during the twelve-day conflict in June 2025, fears of renewed attacks on prisons or nearby facilities have intensified. On the third day of the current war, a building near Greater Tehran Prison, which houses male prisoners, was struck, causing damage that reportedly extended to parts of the prison itself.

Repeated strikes in the Evin district of Tehran—where the notorious Evin Prison is located—have placed detainees at significant risk. Independent sources report that prisoners have attempted to protect themselves from blast waves by taping windows and taking other improvised measures inside prison wards. Additional reports indicate that political prisoners in Evin Prison have been informed that they may be transferred to Qom Prison.

In an interview with *Shargh* newspaper, lawyer Payam Dorafshan addressed the situation of prisoners and the possibility of granting them temporary leave. He stated:

“From a legal standpoint, prisoners fall into two completely different categories. Those who have received final convictions are subject to the regulations of the Prisons Organization,

and the possibility of granting them temporary leave or certain facilities exists, subject to the approval of the supervising judge and within established regulations.

In contrast, individuals held in pre-trial detention—whose cases have not yet reached the stage of a final verdict—are outside the authority of prison administration. Any decision regarding their status lies solely with the authority that issued the detention order.

This legal distinction has effectively eliminated the possibility of making uniform decisions for all prisoners under emergency conditions.”

With judicial institutions, courts, and prosecutors’ offices effectively closed due to the war, the legal status and safety of thousands of protest detainees remain uncertain.

According to Payam Dorafshan, “Buildings such as the Tehran Revolutionary Court and several prosecutor’s offices located in the same area have experienced serious disruptions to their operations. As a result, the judicial process has been significantly interrupted.”

Some protesters who had previously been sentenced to death now face an acute risk that their sentences could be carried out. In recent days, activists and human rights organizations have repeatedly warned about the safety and lives of detainees and have called for their immediate release.

The present report, which is Femena’s third report on women arrested during the January protests, is released on International Women’s Day, a day observed around the world to commemorate the historic struggles of women for equality, freedom, and human dignity. The experiences of the women documented in this report are part of a much longer history of women’s resistance and collective action in Iran. From the earliest organized initiatives of women during the Constitutional Revolution, when women mobilized to demand access to education and greater participation in social and public life, to their prominent presence in subsequent social and political movements, Iranian women have consistently stood at the forefront of the struggle for freedom and justice.

Femena’s findings indicate that Many of the women detained during the January protests had prior records of arrest and prosecution, including during the *Woman, Life, Freedom* protests in 2022. This pattern underscores a critical reality: repression, imprisonment, and state violence have repeatedly failed to silence women’s demands for freedom or to halt their continued mobilization. These women are now imprisoned amid war, airstrikes, and ongoing hostilities—their lives are at risk both from their jailers and from the bombs falling around them.



1. Zahra Aghaei

Zahra Aghaei, a third-semester law student at Najafabad University, has been detained for approximately one month and transferred to an undisclosed location. As of the time of this report, no precise information has been made available regarding the charges against her, her place of detention, or her fate.

The ongoing absence of clear and verifiable information about her situation raises serious concerns about violations of her basic rights, including the right to due process, access to independent legal representation, and the ability to maintain contact with her family.



2. Setareh Shariati

Setareh Shariati, a 26-year-old Gilak woman from Rudsar, was arrested by forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during public protests in her hometown and transferred to Lakan Prison in Rasht.

To date, no precise information has been made available regarding the reasons for her arrest, the charges against her, or her current legal status. According to available

information, Setareh Shariati has been active in the field of yoga and is also known as a tattoo artist.



3. Ghazal Ghalandari

Ghazal Ghalandari, a 16-year-old student, was arrested on January 5 in Yasuj by intelligence forces. Approximately 12 plainclothes agents reportedly raided her family home and took her into custody.

According to received reports, the teenager has been subjected to pressure and ill-treatment during her detention and is facing unfounded accusations in connection with the protests.

Her family firmly rejects these allegations as entirely baseless and maintains that she had no involvement in such activities. The charges were reportedly communicated to her mother by telephone on the first day of her arrest and presented as the basis of her case.

Since then, no clear information has been provided to the family regarding her health condition or the status of her case. According to a source close to the family, Ghazal Ghalandari was permitted only one brief phone call to her mother on the first day of her detention, after which all communication with her family was cut off.

The arrest of a minor on serious security-related charges, without the presentation of evidence and accompanied by complete lack of transparency toward her family, has intensified concerns about possible case fabrication, coercion, and violations of the rights of children and adolescents under international human rights standards.



4. Mohaddeseh Arab

Mohaddeseh Arab, 27, was arrested during the January 8 protests in Isfahan and is currently being held in Dastgerd Prison in Isfahan. She has been denied access to legal counsel and, according to information provided to her relatives, is scheduled to stand trial before the Revolutionary Court on February 15, 2026.

According to her family members, security authorities have attributed accusations to her including “leading the protests.” Arab family have expressed serious concern that, in the absence of access to a lawyer and given reports of poor

detention conditions in Dastgerd Prison, she may be subjected to pressure or threats to coerce her into confessing to the alleged charges.

Her continued detention without access to independent legal representation raises significant concerns regarding due process violations, the risk of coerced confessions, and broader infringements of her fundamental rights under international human rights law.



5. Fariba Hosseini

Fariba Hosseini, a dentist, was arrested on January 15, 2026. Prior to her arrest, she had publicly shared information regarding the level of violence used by government agents during the suppression of the January 8 and 9 protests. Fereshteh Tabanian, a lawyer, announced on her account on the social media platform X: “Ms. Fariba Hosseini has been on hunger strike in Shiraz Prison since yesterday.”

In June 2025, Ms. Hosseini was arrested while writing protest slogans in the city. She was initially transferred to a police station and subsequently held for three days at the Soroush Intelligence Detention Center in Shiraz. Despite bail being set at 400 million tomans, she was transferred to Adel-Abad Prison after authorities refused to accept the posted bail.

After undertaking a 20-day hunger strike in protest of her detention, she was ultimately released from prison on July 22, 2025, upon the acceptance of bail. She was later sentenced by Branch One of the Revolutionary Court of Shiraz, presided over by Judge Sadati, to one year of discretionary imprisonment under electronic monitoring within a 1,000-meter radius on the charge of “writing the slogan ‘Death to the Islamic Republic.’” She was also sentenced to a two-year ban on social media activity, a travel ban, and the revocation of her passport. The ruling was upheld on appeal.



6. Sheida Riahi Chelvani

Sheida Riahi Chelvani, 30, a gynecologist and obstetrician at Seyed al-Shohada Hospital (Omid Hospital) in Isfahan, was arrested by security forces on Friday, January 9, 2026, in Isfahan.

Dr. Riahi Chelvani is a graduate of Ahvaz Jundishapur University of Medical Sciences and was simultaneously pursuing further studies in urology. Reports indicate that she was arrested at her private residence and subsequently transferred to Isfahan Prison.

A significant number of doctors, nurses, and other medical staff have been detained during the recent protests. Evidence suggests that the medical community's role in documenting and exposing the extent of violence, as well as the condition of injured and deceased protesters, may be among the reasons for the widespread arrests carried out by security authorities.



7. Maryam Deris

Maryam Deris, a former political prisoner and civil activist residing in Kazerun, Fars Province, was arrested on February 13. Agents of the Ministry of Intelligence reportedly detained her at her home and transferred her to an undisclosed location. No information has been made available regarding the reasons for her arrest or the charges brought against her.

Maryam Deris was previously arrested on October 15, 2022, and released on bail on November 2 of the same year. Several months later, she was sentenced to 22 months and 17 days of imprisonment. On August 3, 2024, she was summoned to serve her sentence and subsequently transferred to prison. Ms. Deris had been released from Adel-Abad Prison in Shiraz on September 24, 2025, after completing her sentence.



8. Newen Zarei

Newen Zarei, a Kurdish women's rights activist from Sanandaj, was arrested on Thursday, February 12, 2026, by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and transferred to the Intelligence Department's detention facility in the city.

According to received information, the agents confiscated her mobile phone at the time of arrest. To date, no precise information has been made available regarding the charges against her or her current condition.



9. Maedeh Daneshmand

Maedeh Daneshmand was arrested on January 10, 2026, along with her husband, Peyman Momeni, in the city of Mobarakeh, located in Isfahan Province, by security forces. The couple were transferred to an undisclosed location following their arrest, and no detailed information has since been released regarding their conditions of detention or the authority responsible for holding them.

Both individuals are employed and work at a retail store. Some information published on social media indicates that the couple had expressed support for public calls to protest through their business page.



10. Saeedeh Foroughifar

Saeedeh Foroughifar was arrested on Saturday, February 7, along with her husband, Mohsen Darji, by security forces. The arrest was reportedly carried out with the use of violence. As of the time of this report, no information has been obtained regarding their place of detention or the charges brought against them. Saeedeh Foroughifar and her husband, who are parents of a six-year-old child, reside in Yasuj and own a restaurant in the city. In the days following these killings, reports emerged revealing the widespread detention of healthcare workers. These actions have raised serious concerns about systematic violations of

medical neutrality and the deliberate targeting of healthcare professionals, in breach of international human rights and humanitarian standards.



11. Bitra Rahimi

On Thursday, February 5, Bitra Rahimi, a 22-year-old woman from Punak, Tehran, was arrested by government forces. Since her arrest, no information has been made available regarding her fate or whereabouts.

Many families continue to be left completely unaware of the fate and whereabouts of their detained relatives. Despite repeated attempts to seek information from judicial and security

authorities, they have received neither clear answers nor official explanations. A significant number of detainees are systematically deprived of their most fundamental rights while in custody. Such violations include the denial of access to legal representation, severe limitations on communication with family members, and the refusal to permit family visits.

Following an appeal, her sentence was reduced to two years and two months of suspended imprisonment, a fine of 25 million tomans, a two-year travel ban, and the revocation of her passport.



12. Melika and Sara Kavandi

Melika Kavandi, 38, a detainee of the “Woman, Life, Freedom” movement, was arrested on February 8 along with her sister, Sara Kavandi, 47, by forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Karaj and transferred to Kachouii Prison in the city. The two sisters have been subjected to interrogation, and during questioning, Sara Kavandi reportedly faced pressure, verbal abuse, and physical violence. Based on available information, Melika Kavandi is facing charges of “propaganda against the state” and

“absconding,” while the charges against Sara Kavandi remain unclear. Melika Kavandi had previously been arrested and held for one month in Sanandaj Prison. The arrest of the two sisters occurred while they were mourning the death of their father and experiencing significant emotional distress.

Mohammad Nosrati, Melika Kavandi’s husband, had also been detained for one month and was released just one day prior to his wife’s arrest. On the night of her husband’s arrest in Bijar, Melika Kavandi was not at home because she had traveled to Tehran due to the deterioration of her father’s health. Authorities have reportedly cited her absence from home as the basis for the charge of “absconding.”



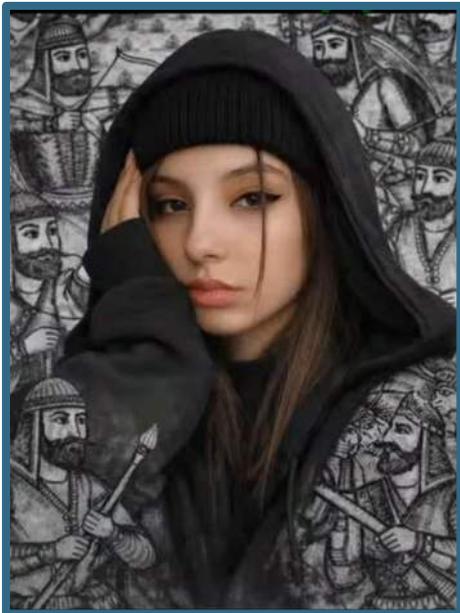
13. Narjes (Vida) Azadavari

Narjes (Vida) Azadavari, 20, was arrested on January 19, 2026, in Sabzevar with the use of violence and was subsequently transferred to Sabzevar Prison following multiple interrogation sessions.

According to her relatives, on the day of her court appearance, the signs of severe physical assault on her face were so extensive that they were clearly visible, raising serious concerns about her treatment while in custody.

As of now, her family remains uninformed about her precise legal status, the charges brought against her, and the conditions under which she is being held.

The continued lack of transparency surrounding her detention, coupled with reports of physical abuse, has intensified fears for her health, safety, and fundamental rights.



14. Diana Taherabadi

Diana Taherabadi, a 16-year-old student, was arrested on January 25, 2026, following a raid by security forces on her family's home. She was subsequently transferred to Kachouii Prison.

According to received reports, nearly one month has passed since her arrest, and she remains in detention.

Sources close to her family state that she was subjected to forced confessions during her detention. However, during a court hearing, she told the judge that she had no role in the charges brought against her.



15. Tina Fereshteh

Tina Fereshteh, an 18-year-old resident of Sabzevar, was arrested during the January protests in the city. More than one month after her detention, no information has been released regarding her condition or the charges brought against her. The continued lack of transparency surrounding her case raises serious concerns about due process violations

and her access to legal representation and communication with her family.



16. Hadis Almaspour

Hadis Almaspour was arrested on February 9, 2026, in Ilam by security forces without the presentation of a judicial warrant and was transferred to an undisclosed location. Since that time, no information has been made available regarding her whereabouts or fate. As of the time of this report, this Kurdish citizen has been denied access to an independently chosen

lawyer, as well as the right to contact and receive visits from her family.



17. Najmeh Amini

According to a report received by Amir Kabir university Newsletter, Najmeh Amini, 23, a university student majoring in accounting, was arrested on January 31, 2026, in Mashhad by security forces. Based on the information available, she was violently apprehended while present in the vicinity of Tolab Street and Ferdowsi Market in Mashhad and subsequently transferred to Vakilabad Prison in the city. Reports indicate that she has been subjected to pressure and torture during her detention and is now facing the charge of “moharebeh” (enmity against God), reportedly based on confessions

obtained under coercive conditions.

Najmeh Amini had previously been arrested during the ‘Woman, Life, Freedom’ protests and was held in detention for approximately eight months. She is currently being denied access to an independent lawyer, and her family has expressed serious concern regarding both her physical condition and her legal situation. The combination of alleged ill-treatment, denial of legal representation, and the imposition of a charge carrying severe penalties raises grave concerns under international human rights standards.



18. Mina and Samira Kouchakidoost

Mina Kouchakidoost and her husband, Armin Sarooji, were arrested on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, by plainclothes agents at their private residence in Tehran. In addition, Samira Koochakidoost, Mina’s sister, was arrested on February 2, 2026.

According to informed sources, a few days prior to their arrest, the couple had received a text message stating that “your case is under review.”

Mina and Samira Koochakidoost were previously arrested during the 2022 “Woman, Life, Freedom” protests and were held for 51 days in Qarchak Prison before being released on bail. They are now being held in Gharchak Prison.



19. Roya Rastegar

Roya Rastegar, a physical education student born in 1992, was arrested on January 11, 2026, after security forces raided her home in Isfahan. Roya is the sole breadwinner of her family. Her parents passed away several years ago, and she is the only guardian of her two younger sisters. During the raid, agents confiscated her mobile phone and all electronic devices in the house. Since her arrest, no security or judicial authority has formally acknowledged responsibility for her detention. In response to the family’s concerns and inquiries, officials reportedly told them that “there is no need to pursue the matter,” further deepening fears about her situation and whereabouts.



20. Fatemeh Mirjafari

Fatemeh Mirjafari, known as Sara Mirjafari, a 29-year-old psychotherapist and psychologist from Kerman, was arrested on January 26, 2026, following a raid by security agents on her workplace.

According to received reports, after her arrest she was held for approximately one week in an Intelligence detention facility, where she was subjected to intense psychological interrogations. She was subsequently transferred to prison.

Four weeks after her arrest, the status of her case and any potential charges against her remain unclear. According to individuals close to her, the family has received no clear information regarding her conditions of detention or the progress of judicial proceedings.



21. Narges Mohammadi

Narges Mohammadi, a 32-year-old artist and DJ, was arrested in Tabriz on 15 February 2026 and her whereabouts and condition remain unknown.

According to reports, five security forces raided Ms. Mohammadi's home in Tabriz and arrested her. During her detention, she has been permitted only one brief phone call, in which she stated that she does not know where she is being held.

Efforts by Ms. Mohammadi's family and close associates to obtain information about her situation have been unsuccessful.

As of the time of this report, the detaining authority, the charges against her, and her place of detention have not been disclosed.



22. Ida Yazdi and Sogand Naeiji

Aida Yazdi, 19, and Sogand Naeiji, 21, two Mazani citizens from Chamestan in Mazandaran Province, were arrested at 4:00 a.m. on Friday, 9 January 2026, during a raid by government forces on Aida's family home. Their fate and whereabouts remain unknown. Sogand has lost her immediate family members, and relatives have had no communication with her.

Forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) entered the residence and searched the premises before arresting Aida Yazdi and Sogand Naeiji. Aida Yazdi's father was also arrested. Based on available information, he was released after approximately 30 days in detention.

Their families have so far received no official information regarding the charges brought against the two young women, or the status of any judicial proceedings against them. Reports indicate that Sogand Naeiji and Ida Yazdi are being held in Amol Women's Prison; however, they have been denied access to legal counsel.

These circumstances raise serious concerns regarding arbitrary arrest, incommunicado detention, denial of due process, and violations of the right to access legal representation.



23. Sanaz Shah-Hosseini

Sanaz Shah-Hosseini was arrested on 10 January 2026 at approximately 12:00 p.m. at her private residence in Phase 2 of Ekbatan Town, Tehran, by security forces. Following her arrest she was transferred to Evin Prison, where she is currently being held. As of the time of this report, no information has been made publicly available regarding the reasons for her arrest or any charges brought against her. Ms. Shah-Hosseini had previously been arrested during ‘Woman, Life, Freedom’ protests in 2022 and was detained for one month in Ward 209 of Evin Prison, under the supervision of the ministry of intelligence of Iran.



24. Mahsa Salah

At approximately 2:00 p.m. on Monday, 16 February 2026, Mahsa Salah, a resident of Shiraz and former manager of the “Kalbeh Madarbozorg” restaurant, was arrested at her private residence in Shiraz.

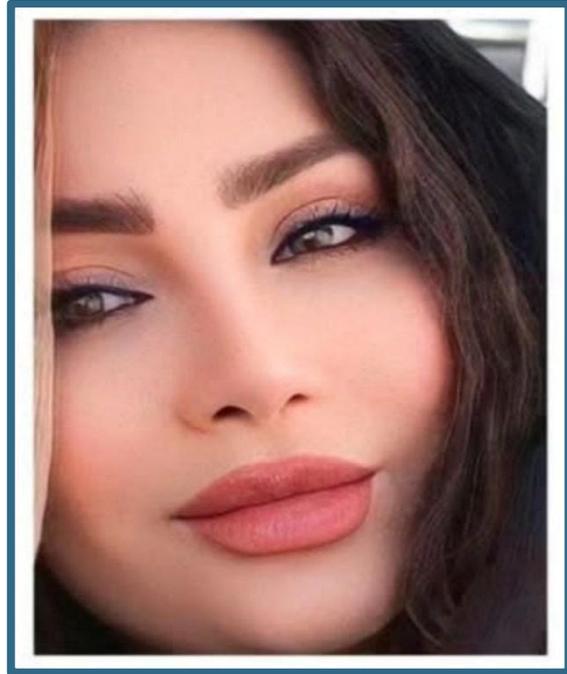
The following day, on 17 February 2026, she informed her family of her arrest during a brief telephone call but refrained from disclosing her place of detention.

As of the time of this report, no official information has been released regarding the authority responsible for her arrest, the charges against her, or her place of detention.

25. Elaheh Rahmati

Elaheh Rahmati, a resident of Divandarreh, was arrested on 17 February 2026 by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence and transferred to an undisclosed location.

To date, no information has been made available regarding her condition, place of detention, or any charges brought against her.



26. Mahtab Shojaei

Mahtab Shojaei, 43, has been missing since the protests of 9 January 2026 in Tehran. According to available information, she was last seen on Friday, 10 January 2026, at approximately 9:00 p.m. in the Teran-Pars area of the capital.

Individuals who were with Ms. Shojaei stated that following gunfire in the area, she became separated from her friends and left the scene. Since that time, no information has been available regarding her fate or whereabouts.

Her family and friends have appealed to the public to share any information that may assist in clarifying her situation. Given the context of unrest and reported use of firearms in the area, her disappearance raises serious concerns regarding her safety and the risk of enforced disappearance.



27. Mahdieh Yousefi

Mahdieh Yousefi, a 19-year-old woman from Sabzevar, has been detained since 3 February 2026. Ms. Yousefi was reportedly introduced to the Criminal Investigation Department by the family of another detainee after her phone number was found saved on that individual's mobile phone. She was asked to provide an explanation solely regarding the presence of her contact details. However, after attending the investigation office for this purpose, she did not return home. Since then, her family has been left without any information about her condition or place of detention.

To date, no clear explanation has been provided to them regarding any charges brought against her or the status of her case. According to relatives, her mobile phone remains in the possession of judicial authorities. Family members have also expressed serious concern about her physical and psychological well-being. They report that she suffers from severe stress, a heart condition, and Claustrophobia. They warn that detention in confined environments may be particularly distressing for her and could pose a serious risk to her health.



28. Samira Shokouhi Nasab

Samira Shokouhi Nasab, a podologist, was arrested during the January protests in Sabzevar. According to reports, she is currently being held in the prison of that city. No information has been made publicly available regarding the reasons for her arrest or any charges brought against her.



29. Nahid Barzouei

Nahid Barzouei, from Sabzevar, was arrested during the January protests by security forces and remains in a state of legal uncertainty.

According to reports, even after some time has passed since her arrest, no detailed information has been made available regarding the status of her case or the conditions of her detention.



30. Zahra (Farzaneh) Fasihi

Zahra (Farzaneh) Fasihi, a physician residing in Tehran, was arrested on 18 February 2026 (29 Bahman 1404) at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery following her attendance at a fortieth-day memorial ceremony for one of the protesters.

According to reports, Ms. Fasihi contacted her family two days after her arrest and informed them that she had been transferred to Qarchak Prison.



31. Saba Ahmadi

Saba Ahmadi, the owner of a clothing boutique and a resident of Tehran, was arrested at her home by security forces on 14 February 2026 . She was subsequently transferred to Evin Prison. Since the time of her arrest, she has been permitted only one short telephone call with her family. To date, no information has been made publicly available regarding any charges brought against her or the status of her case.



32. Melika Malekmohammadi

Melika Malekmohammadi, a writer and theatre assistant director, has been in detention since 15 January 2026.

She was arrested following a violent raid by security forces on her home in Tehran. Since her arrest, no information has been made

available regarding her whereabouts or condition.



33. Yalda Khademifar

Yalda Khademifar, an Afghan national residing in Mashhad and employed as a cook at a café, was arrested on 9 January 2026. Reports indicate that existing discrimination against Afghan nationals has complicated efforts to follow up on her case, heightening concerns regarding her situation.

To date, no information is available about her place of detention or her condition. These circumstances raise serious concerns discrimination based on nationality, lack of transparency,

and potential violations of due process and fundamental rights.



34. Fatemeh Rohandeh

Fatemeh Rohandeh, an attorney in Kerman Province, was arrested on 23 February after pursuing the cases of several detainees from the January 2026 protests. She was arrested at the Cyber Police (FATA) office in Kerman and subsequently transferred to the city's narcotics detention facility.

Informed sources report that Ms. Rohandeh became the target of judicial and security actions after

agreeing to represent a number of arrested protesters and actively following the progress of their cases. To date, no detailed information has been made available regarding the detaining authority, or the charges brought against her.

Since the beginning of the protests, a large number of lawyers have been threatened or arrested by security agencies. Security authorities have contacted some lawyers directly, creating an environment of intimidation and interference with their professional duties. This

occurs while many detainees remain deprived of the right to access an independent lawyer, raising serious concerns regarding violations of due process.



35. Samaneh Hosseini-Moghaddam

Samaneh Hosseini-Moghaddam, born in 1999 and a psychologist, was arrested on 11 January 2026 at her private residence in Kerman. Several days after her arrest, she remains in detention. Ms. Hosseini-Moghaddam was reportedly held for approximately ten days in the detention facility of the Kerman Intelligence Department before being transferred to Shahab Prison in the same city. According to IranWire, She is facing the charge of “acting against national security” and has been denied access to legal counsel to date. She remains in a state of legal uncertainty and is being

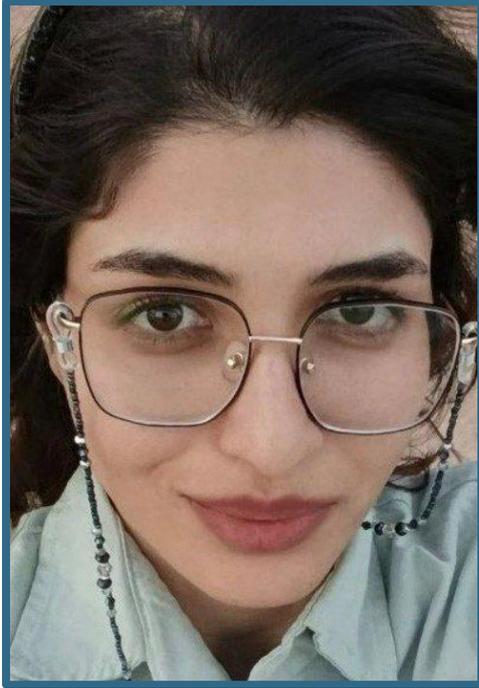
held under reportedly harsh conditions in Shahab Prison.



36. Forouzan Yektaei

Forouzan Yektaei, a teacher and photographer residing in Rasht, was arrested on 9 January 2026. According to published reports, her arrest was related to her participation in protests in the city and photographing during busy nights in Rasht,. She spent approximately 20 days in solitary confinement. Additionally, the family’s request for her temporary release on bail has so far not been approved by the judicial authorities. Ms. Yektai is

currently being held in Lakan Prison in Rasht.



37. Fatemeh Nameni

Fatemeh Nameni, a resident of Soltanabad village in Sabzevar, mother of a two-year-old child and a midwife at Soltanabad Health Center, was arrested at her workplace on Wednesday, 25 February 2026 and transferred to the quarantine section of Sabzevar Prison. To date, no information has been made available regarding her condition or any charges brought against her.



38. Mahdiah Zarei

Mahdiah Zarei, a woman from Bandar Abbas and a dance instructor in the city, was arrested by the forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on February 3, 2026, and her fate remains unknown. Prior to her detention, on 16 January 2026, her mobile phone was reportedly confiscated by the security forces of Islamic Republic.



39. Azar Saheli

On Saturday, 21 February 2026, Azar Saheli, the sister of Mehdi Saheli, one of the victims of the January protests in Ramsar, was arrested at her home during a raid by security forces and transferred to an undisclosed location. According to informed sources, her arrest followed a speech she delivered at the fortieth-day memorial ceremony for her brother.



40. Romina and Taraneh Rahimi

18-year-old twin(or 20) sisters, Taraneh and Romina Rahimi were arrested on 24 January 2026 in Isfahan. Despite more than a month having passed since their arrest, the two sisters have not been formally charged. On Wednesday, 25 February, the Isfahan Prosecutor's Office extended their detention for an additional month.

Although two lawyers under Article 48 were assigned to the case, the prosecution has not granted them access to the sisters' file. Human rights lawyers report that a large number of cases involving detainees from the 1404 protests remain pending at the prosecutor's office stage. Under the restrictions of Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Law, many detainees are denied representation by independent lawyers, as only attorneys approved by the judiciary are allowed to handle such cases at this stage.

Article 48 of the Criminal Procedure Law not only contradicts the Constitution and the principles of a fair trial but has also been the subject of ongoing criticism for years by legal scholars, independent lawyers, and human rights organizations. Serious concerns persist regarding the conduct of lawyers appointed under Article 48, who are often closely affiliated with security agencies. In practice, they fail to provide an effective defense for the accused and, in many cases, act in alignment and coordination with the Islamic Republic's security forces.

These issues raise serious questions about the impartiality of legal representation and the protection of defendants' rights under both domestic and international law.



About Femena

Femena promotes women's rights, and supports women human rights defenders (WHRDs), their organizations and feminist movements in the South-West Asia and North Africa SWANA region. Our work is particularly focused on contexts impacted by repression, fascism and conflict where civic space is closed or shrinking and there is a backlash against rights of women and other structurally excluded groups.