



## Women Arrested During National Protest in Iran

### Fourth Report

Date: 14/04/2026



## Introduction

It has now been more than forty days since international internet access was cut off in Iran. This sustained disruption of communications has severely restricted the flow of information and made it extremely difficult to monitor the situation of detainees, particularly those arrested during the January 2026 protests.

In the aftermath of the widespread crackdown on protests in January 2026, Femena launched a series of reports to document and highlight cases of women detained during the protests, to amplify their voices. However, in recent weeks—amid the escalation of conflict involving the United States and Israel and now under a fragile ceasefire—continuing this work has become increasingly challenging.

During this same period, Iran’s judiciary has accelerated the implementation of [death sentences against political prisoners](#), even as many courts have been operating at reduced capacity. In a deeply concerning pattern, at least seven young individuals arrested in connection with the January protests were executed following opaque judicial processes. Their death sentences were confirmed and carried out in less than three months. Credible reports indicate that all were denied access to independent legal counsel and subjected to torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

On April 13, 2026, human rights organizations [reported](#) that four additional detainees were sentenced to death by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court. Among them is a woman, Bita Hemmati, who was arrested at her home in the early hours of January 9 along with her husband, Mohammadreza Majidi-Asl, and a relative, Amir Hemmati. Two other individuals, brothers Behrouz Zamani-Nejad and Kourosh Zamani-Nejad, who were arrested at the same time, have also been sentenced to death in this case.

The sharp rise in executions in Iran, particularly of political protesters, is deeply alarming. Iranian civil society has long warned that war and external intervention would exacerbate internal repression and further weaken already fragile civic space. Today, hundreds of individuals arrested during the January protests remain in detention under unclear conditions, while the broader population faces severe economic and social hardship driven by conflict, sanctions, and ongoing instability.

At the same time, security forces continue to carry out widespread arrests on a daily basis. Individuals are being detained on charges such as filming missile strike locations, selling VPNs to enable access to the global internet, or sharing videos with Persian-language media outlets abroad. State-affiliated media channels are saturated with reports of arrests of individuals accused of links to “enemy” actors, some of whom are subsequently forced to appear on television to deliver coerced confessions.

Under these conditions, Iranian civil society—already subjected to years of systemic repression, with many activists currently imprisoned—has little capacity to organize or sustain collective action in opposition to executions and broader state violence.

This report is the fourth in Femena’s ongoing series documenting women detained during the January protests, covering more than twenty cases to date. It is important to note that, due to the prolonged internet shutdown, Femena has been unable to verify the current status of many of these individuals, including whether they remain in detention or have been temporarily released on bail. Nevertheless, given that even those released continue to face prosecution and surveillance, Femena remains committed to continuing its work to document these cases and amplify the voices of detained women.



## 1. Mahsa Shafiei

Mahsa Shafiei, 24, sister of Nima (Parsa) Shafiei, the 18-year-old who was killed during the “Woman, Life, Freedom” protests, was arrested on 8 January 2026. She is currently being held in Yasuj Central Prison, where she remains in a

state of legal limbo. According to reports, she has spent 14 days in solitary confinement.

She has previously faced arrest and judicial prosecution. She was detained during the “Woman, Life, Freedom” protests and again in July 2025, when security forces reportedly raided her home and arrested her with the use of violence. According to the judicial warrant presented by the arresting officers at the time, the charges cited included “insulting military officials killed in the 12-day war with Israel” and “cooperation with Persian-language media outlets based outside Iran.”

A month ago, an audio message from Ms. Shafiei was circulated from Yasuj Prison. In this emotional message addressed to her brother and to those killed during what she referred to as the Iranian national uprising, she stated: “Shame on me that you did not remain, and I am still alive. What is freedom? What difference does it make whether I am in the women’s ward or in my own room, when darkness still casts its shadow? Outside, your open eyes and your blood-soaked bodies are the world’s top headline.”



## 2. Negin Rajabi

Negin Rajabi, 24, was arrested on 12 January 2026 after security agents raided her home in Tehran. The agents reportedly described the action as “a simple interrogation.” At the same time, they reportedly warned the family to remain silent.

Since her arrest, no information has been made available regarding her condition or place of detention.



### 3. **Saghar and Ghazal Ghodrat**

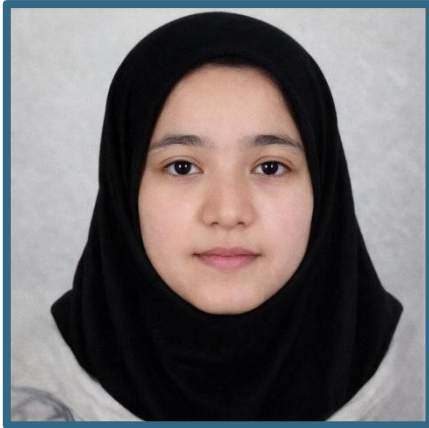
Saghar Ghodrat (25) and Ghazal Ghodrat (29), two sisters and dental technicians from Shiraz, have each been sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment by the Revolutionary Court.

The sisters were arrested during the protests on 9 January 2026 in Shiraz on charges of "leading the protests" and are currently being held in Adel-Abad Prison in Shiraz. Reports indicate that during their detention, Saghar and Ghazal were deprived of their most basic rights, including access to independent legal counsel.

### 4. **Mahsa Babaei**

Mahsa Babaei, 24, was detained for approximately 50 days by security forces of the Islamic Republic and was being held in Yasuj Central Prison. Due to the war and the internet shutdown, there is no further information regarding her status.





## 5. Maryam Fatehi

Maryam Fatehi, an 18-year-old high school student, was detained for approximately 50 days by security forces of the Islamic Republic and was being held in Yasuj Central Prison.

Due to the war and the internet shutdown, there is no further information regarding her current status.

Two other students, Hadis Shirzadi (17) and Nadia Abdipour (17), were also reportedly held for approximately 50 days in Yasuj Central Prison, where they remain under detention and interrogation. No photographs or further information about them are available.

## 6. Fatemeh Zahra Hatami

Fatemeh Zahra Hatami, an 18-year-old student, was arrested on January 10, 2026, in Zarrin Shahr, Isfahan Province. Due to the war and the internet shutdown, there is no further information regarding her current status.

Security agents also detained her 12-year-old sister, Anita, who was released after several hours of interrogation, but she remains deeply frightened and traumatized by the experience.



During her detention, the 18-year-old student had only one or two brief phone calls with her family, during which she said she was unable to speak about her situation over the phone.



### **7. Fatemeh Naseri**

Fatemeh Naseri, a fitness trainer from Mamasani County, was arrested on February 12. No information is currently available regarding her place of detention or her health condition.



### **8. Kokab Badaghi**

Bahareh Golchin, a 17-year-old resident of Mashhad, was reportedly arrested by security forces on February 13, 2026. She is said to have been detained in connection with distributing leaflets related to the fortieth-day memorial for individuals killed during the protests. As of the time of this report, no information has been made publicly available regarding her condition, place of detention, or the status of her case.



## 9. Najmeh Nikouei

Najmeh Nikouei, a 28-year-old graphic designer and a resident of Quchan, was arrested on January 10 in the city and remains in detention at Quchan Prison.

Despite repeated efforts by her family to obtain information, authorities have not provided clear details regarding the charges against her, and the status of her case remains unclear. According to her relatives, officials have only made vague verbal references to videos allegedly found on her mobile phone, without presenting formal charges or documented evidence.

According to available reports, she had been able to maintain telephone contact with her family; however, she had been denied access to legal counsel.

## 10. Faezeh Taheri

Faezeh Taheri, a theatre actor, was arrested on January 15, 2026, following a raid by Islamic Republic security forces on her residence in Tehran. No information is currently available regarding her situation, the reasons for her arrest, or any potential charges against her.

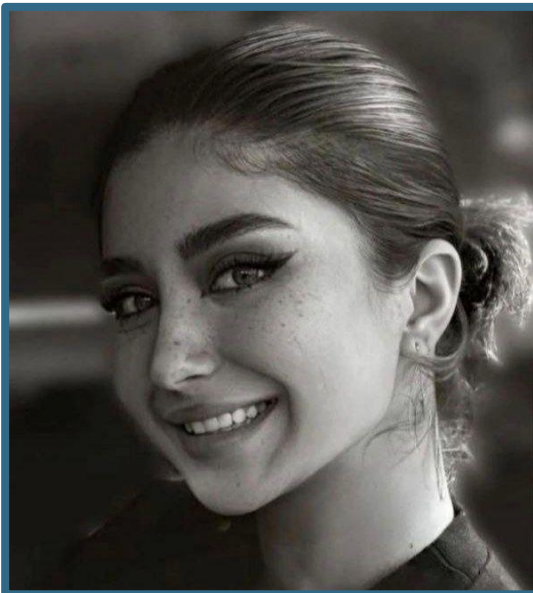


### **11. Kimia Mousavi**

Kimia Mousavi, an actor and puppeteer, was arrested on February 3 following a raid carried out by 13 security agents.

According to sources close to her family, Mousavi had suffered severe burns to both of her legs prior to her arrest and sustained serious injuries. However, no credible information has been made available regarding her medical treatment, access to healthcare, or the current condition of her injuries.

Furthermore, no information has so far been made available regarding her condition, the charges against her, or her place of detention.



### **12. Kamelia Nazari**

Kamelia Nazari, 18, was arrested on January 9, 2026, by security forces outside her home in Shiraz and has since been held at Adelabad Prison in Shiraz.

According to available information, weeks after her arrest, the teenager's family remains completely uninformed about her legal status or the charges brought against her. Authorities have so far provided no clear explanation regarding the reasons for her arrest or the progress of her case.

According to a relative, during a brief phone call Kamelia Nazari said that interrogators take her for questioning every day and subject her to psychological pressure in an attempt to extract a confession.

The source added that the continuation of this treatment has caused her severe psychological distress.



### **13. Roxana Ghanbari**

Roxana Ghanbari, 19-year-old resident of Shahin-Shahr, Isfahan, was arrested at her family home on January 9, 2026.

According to sources, several weeks after her arrest she remains in detention, and no official information has been provided regarding her legal status, place of detention, or any potential charges

against her.



### **14. Atena Rahnama**

Atena Rahnama, 16 years old, and her father Morteza Rahnama, were arrested by security forces on January 8, and no clear information about their situation has been made available so far. According to available information, the two were arrested on January 8, 2026, while they were together outside their home and were subsequently transferred to Sirjan Prison. Their family remains unaware of the details of the charges against them, the status of their case, or the conditions of their detention.



### **15. Mobina Ashouri**

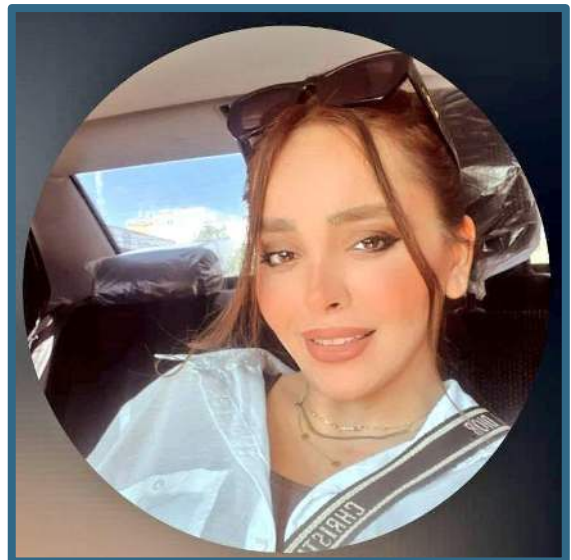
Mobina Ashouri, an 18-year-old from Isfahan, was arrested by security forces on December 31, 2025, in Naqsh-e Jahan Square and has not been released since.

No precise information has been made available regarding her situation, place of detention, or the conditions of her custody.

### **16. Sahar Esfandiari**

Sahar Esfandiari, 30, was arrested on the night of February 14, 2026, at her home in Jahrom, together with her husband, Sajjad Kalvani, and was subsequently transferred to Adelabad Prison in Shiraz. During the arrest, security agents confiscated her mobile phone and other electronic devices. She has been denied access to legal counsel since her detention.

Her brother, Alireza Esfandiari, was arrested in Marvdasht and has been held in detention since February 18, 2026.





### **17. Sara Jahantigh**

Sara Jahantigh, a well-known civil society activist from Sari, was arrested in January 2026. No information has been made available regarding her place of detention, the reasons for her arrest, or her current condition.

She has a prior history of detention, having been arrested twice during the Woman, Life, Freedom protests and once in 2023.

In September 2023, she was sentenced by the Revolutionary Court of Sari to two years and six months in prison and was transferred to Sari Prison to serve her sentence.

Authorities reportedly accused her of propaganda against the state and insulting the Supreme Leader, among other charges.



### **18. Nika Mahmoudi, Maryam Mirzaei and Hoda Fori**

Nika Mahmoudi, Maryam Mirzaei, and Hoda Fori were arrested on Sunday, February 22, 2026, by agents of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Intelligence in Sari. They were subsequently transferred to undisclosed locations, and their current whereabouts remain unknown.

According to available information, the three women were allegedly detained in

connection with their online activities and their participation in memorial events for those killed during the January protests.



### **19. Omolbanin Dehghan and Maryam Alipour**

On January 25, Omolbanin Dehghan, the mother of a prisoner sentenced to death, along with his sister and brother, Maryam and Rouzbeh Alipour, were arrested while returning from a visit to him at Evin Prison.

Omolbanin Dehghan, the 63-year-old mother of Babak, and Maryam Alipour, Babak's sister, were transferred from solitary confinement to the general ward of Qarchak Prison in March. They remain in detention in a state of uncertainty.

In April of this year, Babak was executed while his mother was imprisoned in Qarchak Prison. She was not only denied a final visit with her son, but was also deprived of the opportunity to mourn him at home and among relatives. His sister is facing similar conditions and has reportedly come under increased pressure, particularly following the execution.

Another son of the family, Roozbeh Alipour, has been held in solitary confinement since January 26. He has only been allowed two brief one-minute phone calls with his father, and there is currently no information available about his health condition.



## 20. Ashraf Mohammadi

Ashraf Mohammadi, 53, a civil society and environmental activist, was allegedly arrested on Thursday, February 19, 2026, in Najafabad, Isfahan, while returning from a memorial for Mohammad Mohammadi, who was killed during the January protests. She is currently held in the general ward of Isfahan Women's Prison. Her overall condition is reported to be poor, and she is in urgent need of medical care.

physical violence while in custody.



## 21. Mahboubeh Shaabani

Mahboubeh Shaabani, one of the individuals arrested during the January 2026 protests in Mashhad, has been charged with "*enmity against God*" (*moharebeh*), a serious offense under Iranian law that can carry the death penalty.

Shaabani, a 33-year-old resident of Mashhad, was arrested on the evening of February 1, 2026, at around 8:00 PM by agents of the Ministry of Intelligence in Mashhad. She is currently being held in

the women's ward of Vakilabad Prison.

According to human rights media reports citing informed sources, Shaabani was subjected to severe violence at the time of her arrest by five male agents and one female agent. Her personal motorcycle was also confiscated.

Reports further indicate that the charge of *moharebeh* against her is based on allegations that she assisted injured protesters during the demonstrations in Mashhad on January 7 and 8, 2026. It is said that she used her motorcycle to transport wounded individuals to medical centers and hospitals.



## 22. Sima Anbaei Farimani

Sima Anbaei Farimani, a theater actress and poet, was arrested on March 15, 2026, for participating in protests. She is currently being held in Vakilabad Prison in Mashhad.

She is facing multiple charges, including “communication with the Zionist regime,” “assembly and collusion,” and “insulting the former and current Supreme Leaders.”

She is currently being denied visits and phone contact, raising concerns about her condition and access to legal representation.

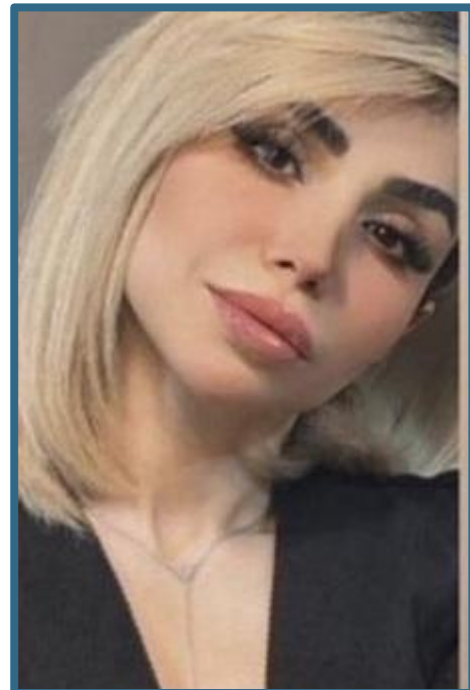
## 23. Bita Hemmati

Bitá Hemmati, one of the protesters arrested during the January 2026 protests in Iran, was detained on January 9 along with her husband, a relative, and two others

According to a verdict issued under the authority of Judge Iman Afshari, the charges against them include “participation in protest gatherings on January 7 and 8, 2026,” “chanting protest slogans,” “throwing objects—including bottles, concrete blocks, and incendiary materials—from rooftops,” and “destruction of public property.”

Bitá Hemmati, along with three other defendants in the same case, has been sentenced to death by Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court. The verdict has been referred to the Supreme Court for appeal.

According to human rights sources, the detainees in this case were subjected to severe pressure and coerced into making forced televised confessions. They were also denied



access to an independent lawyer. A short video of Bitā Hemmati's confession, recorded in the presence of the Head of the Judiciary, Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei, was reportedly published on channels affiliated with Iranian security institutions following the crackdown on the January protests.



### **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.