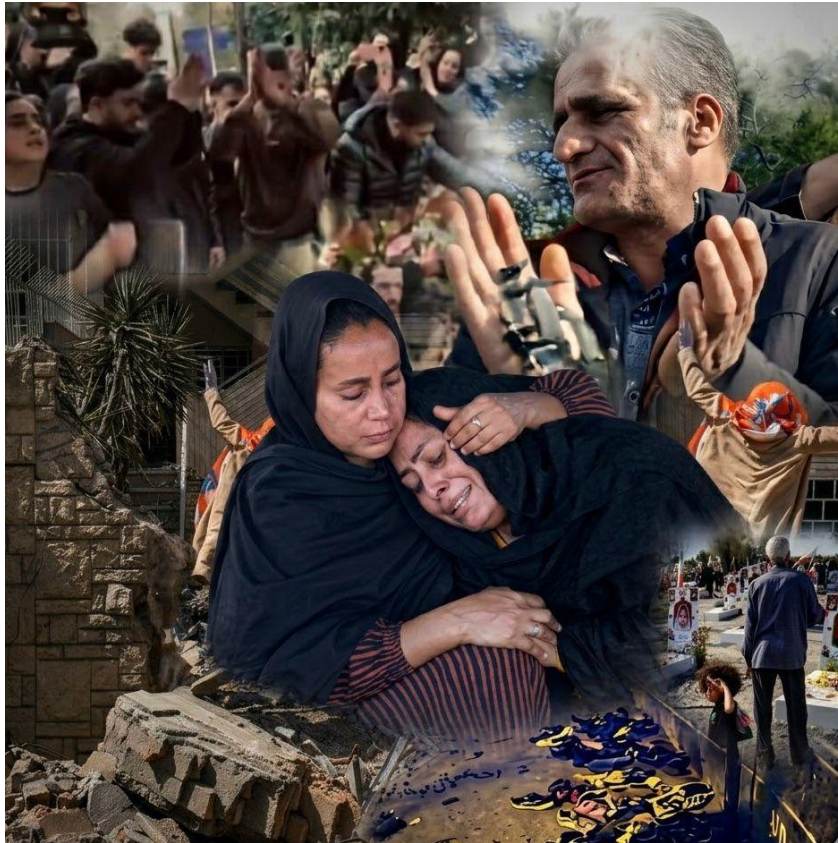




## Women Arrested During National Protest in Iran

Report No. 5

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## Introduction

Since the publication of Femena's [fourth report](#) in April, the impact of war has permeated nearly every aspect of life in Iran, exacerbating political repression, economic hardship, and restrictions on fundamental rights.

The [three-month internet blackout](#) imposed across the country severely restricted access to information about the situation of detainees and significantly hindered the ability of human rights organizations to accurately monitor the conditions of those arrested during the January protests. Despite the wartime environment and widespread disruptions, Iran's Revolutionary Courts have continued to issue harsh sentences against protesters and other detainees.

Femena has learned that many of the court hearings for those arrested were conducted online. These proceedings, often lasting no more than five to ten minutes, deprived defendants and their lawyers of the opportunity to mount an effective defense. Following these brief hearings, many detainees received lengthy prison sentences and other severe punishments.

At the same time, the issuance and implementation of death sentences against protesters have continued at an unprecedented pace. In a separate [report](#) published on 27 May 2026, Femena examined the cases of fifteen individuals who had been executed in connection with the protests, as well as several others facing imminent execution. Since the publication of that report, at least five more protesters—Javad Zamani, Abolfazl Saedi, Mehrdad Mohammadinia, Javad Maleki, and Fathollah Avari—have been executed.

The war has also deepened Iran's already severe economic crisis. Attacks on key infrastructure, including steel production facilities, coupled with the country's effective maritime blockade, have accelerated inflation and further deteriorated living conditions for millions of people. Economic hardship was, in fact, one of the primary triggers of the January protests. What followed were mass nationwide protests involving millions of people, and ultimately a brutal state crackdown that left thousands dead.

Nearly six months after the January protests, hundreds of protesters remain imprisoned across Iran, while thousands have been killed by security forces. Grief, anger, despair, and disbelief at the scale of the violence continue to shape Iranian society. For decades, Iranians have sought political, social, and personal freedoms through largely peaceful means, repeatedly calling for reform and accountability. However, these demands have been met with repression, violence, and mass arrests.

The deaths of several senior Iranian leaders during the U.S. and Israeli military offensive against Iran have further deepened the country's political uncertainty. Political repression has intensified, and even the smallest expressions of dissent are met with severe retaliation by security forces. Civil society organizations are struggling under both heightened

repression and worsening economic conditions, while critics and dissidents increasingly face accusations of espionage and threats to national security.

This report is the fifth in Femena's ongoing series documenting women arrested in connection with the January protests. Femena remains committed to continuing this documentation effort and ensuring that the experiences of detained women are recorded, preserved, and brought to international attention.

## 1. Bahar Sahraeian

Bahar Sahraeian, a lawyer and a member of the Fars Province Bar Association, was arrested on 16 May 2026 while visiting the Revolutionary Court in Shiraz to follow up on the case of one of her clients. She was subsequently charged with “assembly and collusion with the intent to act against national security,” “propaganda against the state,” and “spreading false information.”

Following her arrest, Sahraeian was transferred to [Adelabad Prison](#) in Shiraz, where she remains detained without a final verdict or clarity regarding her legal status. She had previously been arrested during the 2022 Woman, Life, Freedom protests. Sahraeian is widely recognized as a lawyer actively engaged in defending human rights, as well as the rights of women and children in Shiraz.



## 2. Dr. Shokoufeh Asadzadeh

Shokoufeh Asadzadeh, 37, was arrested in mid-May 2026, in Shiraz. According to the Committee for Monitoring the Situation of Detainees, she had been summoned earlier that month to provide explanations to authorities. Upon appearing before the relevant office, she was arrested and has since remained in detention without formal charges or legal proceedings.

As of the time of writing, no information has been released regarding the reasons for her arrest or any charges brought against her.



### 3. **Dr. Mouhebat Ghafouri**

Dr. Mouhebat Ghafouri, a pediatric specialist from the city of Lar in Fars Province, was arrested by security forces on 4 May 2026. According to reports by the Hengaw Organization, she had previously been arrested on 2 January 2026 during the January protests and was released on temporary bail after approximately eight weeks of detention without charge or trial.

Reports further indicate that her personal property has been confiscated by the Iranian judiciary.

### 4. **Elham Zeraatpisheh**

Elham Zeraatpisheh, a lawyer based in Shiraz, was arrested on 4 May 2026 outside the Civil Sentences Enforcement Prosecutor's Office in the city. No information has yet been made public regarding the charges against her.

She is currently being held in Adelabad Prison. Zeraatpisheh was previously arrested during the Woman, Life, Freedom protests and spent a period of time in detention.





## 5. **Astareh Ansari**

Astareh Ansari, a lawyer, member of the Fars Bar Association, and human rights activist from Shiraz, was arrested by security forces at her home on the evening of 3 May 2026.

No official information has been released regarding her place of detention, health condition, or the charges against her.

Ansari has represented numerous political prisoners, civil society activists, and individuals arrested during protests. For years, she has stood

alongside families seeking truth and justice, as well as political prisoners, providing legal support and advocacy in some of Iran's most sensitive human rights cases.

## 6. **Zahra Shahidi**

Zahra Shahidi, one of the individuals arrested during the January 2026 protests, has been sentenced to two years of imprisonment by the Iranian judiciary. She is currently being held in the women's ward of Evin Prison in Tehran.

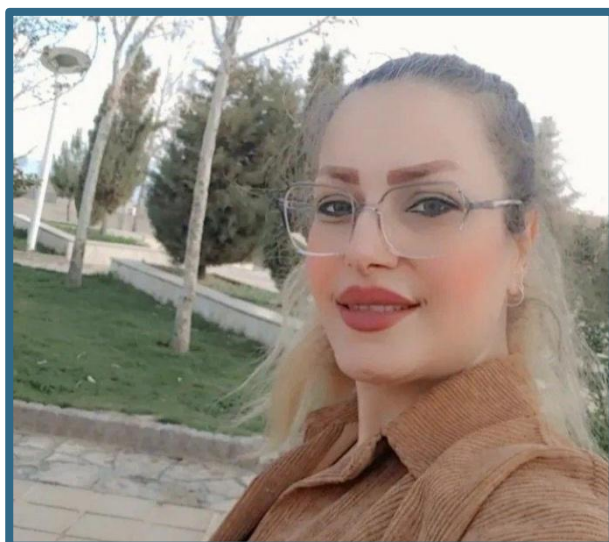
According to available information, Shahidi, a 48-year-old resident of Tehran and the sole provider for her family, was recently sentenced by a branch of the Tehran Revolutionary Court. Further details regarding the charges against her and the specific court branch that issued the verdict have not yet been officially disclosed and remain under investigation.

Shahidi was arrested by security forces on 30 December 2025 during nationwide protests in Tehran. Following interrogation and detention procedures, she was transferred to the women's ward of Evin Prison, where she remains incarcerated.

## 7. Hadiseh Morvaridi

Hadiseh Morvaridi, 24, was arrested in Fariman on 8 January 2026 and remains in detention without a final verdict or clarity regarding her legal status.

According to informed sources, she has been accused of *sabb al-nabi* (insulting the Prophet), a charge considered among the most serious offenses under Iran's penal code and one that can carry the death penalty. Morvaridi is currently imprisoned in Vakilabad Prison in Mashhad and continues to be held in a state of legal uncertainty.



## 8. Tahereh Dehghan

Tahereh Dehghan was arrested during the January 2026 protests and was subsequently sentenced to one year in prison. She is currently serving her sentence in Vakilabad Prison in Mashhad.

Dehghan, who is from Chenaran, was recently transferred to Ward One of Vakilabad Prison, a section that houses prisoners convicted of serious criminal offenses. According to reports, the transfer

came after she protested the poor quality of drinking water available to prisoners.



## 9. Bibi Zahra Mousavi

Bibi Zahra Mousavi was arrested by security forces on 20 January 2026 in connection with the January protests.

She was recently sentenced by the Mashhad Revolutionary Court to a total of four years of imprisonment on charges including “forming a group,” “training others in and manufacturing incendiary devices (Molotov cocktails),” and “encouraging individuals to disrupt national security.” In addition, she received a suspended sentence of six years and six months.

Mousavi holds both Iranian and Afghan citizenship. According to informed sources, as a result of this case, her Iranian birth certificate and citizenship documents have been revoked, and she has been threatened with deportation.

## 10. Azar Yahoo

Azar Yahoo, born in 1987, was arrested in Mashhad on 4 March 2026 by the IRGC. She is currently being held in the Aramesh Ward of Vakilabad Prison.

She has been accused of “collaboration with Israel,” a charge that, according to reports, is based on her social media activities, including the use of online stickers and content shared on digital platforms. Reports also indicate that one of the reasons cited for her arrest was her presence in public and dancing on the day of Ali Khamenei’s death.



No further official information has been released regarding the evidence supporting the charges against her or the status of her legal proceedings.

### 11. Azadeh (Masoumeh) Yaghoubi

Azadeh (Masoumeh) Yaghoubi, known by the pseudonym “Azadeh,” was arrested by security forces in Mashhad on 24 January 2026. She has now spent more than four months in detention without charge or trial in Vakilabad Prison in Mashhad.

A source close to her family told HRANA that Yaghoubi suffers from Crohn’s disease, a chronic inflammatory bowel condition, and that her health has deteriorated due to a lack of access to necessary medication and poor detention conditions. According to the source, the poor quality of prison food and restrictions on obtaining essential supplies have further aggravated her condition. Yaghoubi requires specialized medical care and a colonoscopy; however, prison authorities have thus far prevented her transfer to a hospital outside the prison.



### 12. Seyedeh Zeinab Mousavi -"Aban"

Seyedeh Zeinab Mousavi, known by the pseudonym “Aban,” was arrested on 24 February 2026. A court hearing concerning the charges against her and her brother, Seyed Hassan Mousavi, was held on 26 April 2026.

Both face charges of *moharebeh* (“enmity against God”), one of the most serious offenses under Iranian law and a charge that can carry the death penalty.



### 13. Fatemeh Rouhandeh

Fatemeh Rouhandeh, a lawyer, was arrested in Kerman in late May 2026 after authorities imposed a ban on her online activities due to her social media presence. Her temporary detention remains ongoing.

Rouhandeh was first arrested in March 2025 for posting Instagram stories expressing support for individuals detained during the January protests. At the time, prosecutors charged her with “spreading false information.” During that earlier case, judicial authorities issued multiple restrictive orders against her, including limitations on her online activities.

### 14. Faezeh Salehabadi

Faezeh Salehabadi, 33, was arrested at her home in Mashhad on 9 February 2026. She has since spent approximately four months in the “Aramesh Ward” of Vakilabad Prison, where many detainees arrested during the January protests are being held.

According to her husband, the charges against her include “insulting Islamic sanctities,” “insulting the Supreme Leader,” and “propaganda against the state.” Judicial authorities have reportedly linked these charges to her activity on Instagram and the publication of social media stories.



Salehabadi is a daf musician and the mother of two children: an eight-year-old daughter and a fourteen-year-old son who suffers from asthma and requires ongoing medical care.

### 15. Maryam Babajani

Maryam Babajani, a resident of Izeh, was arrested in the city in late January 2026 and was later released from prison on bail set at 10 billion tomans. She has since been sentenced to 32 years, six months, and two days of imprisonment, of which 20 years are enforceable under Iran’s sentencing regulations.



According to the Hengaw Organization, Babajani was sentenced to 20 years and one day in prison on one national security-related charge and to an additional 12 years, six months, and one day on another charge, bringing her total sentence to 32 years, six months, and two days. The verdict reportedly includes accusations brought under Iran’s law on enhanced punishments for espionage-related offenses.



### 16. Souria Babaei Chegini

Souria Babaei Chegini, a civil rights activist, opponent of compulsory hijab, and one of those arrested during the January 2026 protests, has been sentenced to three years of imprisonment by Branch Two of the Qazvin Revolutionary Court, presided over by Judge Davoud Tashakkori.

According to the verdict, she was sentenced to two years in prison for “insulting the Supreme Leader” and one year for

“propaganda against the state,” resulting in a total sentence of three years' imprisonment.

The court also ordered the confiscation of her mobile phone and SIM card in favor of the state and imposed a two-year travel ban as an additional punishment.

Babaei Chegini was arrested by government forces in Qazvin during protest gatherings on 6 January 2026. She is the mother of three children and has previously been arrested, prosecuted, and imprisoned due to her civil activism and participation in campaigns opposing compulsory hijab.

### 17. Mahsa Jamali

Mahsa Jamali was arrested by Iranian security forces during the January 2026 protests. On 9 January 2026, she was transferred from Qarchak Prison in Varamin to Evin Prison in Tehran.

She was recently sentenced by a Revolutionary Court to six months of imprisonment and is currently serving her sentence in Evin Prison.

### 18. Shaqayegh Makvandi

Shaqayegh Makvandi, a Lor woman from Izeh in Khuzestan Province and one of those arrested during the January 2026 protests, has been sentenced by the Iranian judiciary to two years and one day of imprisonment.

According to reports, Branch One of the Revolutionary Court of Izeh convicted her of “disrupting public order” and imposed the sentence. Following the issuance of the initial verdict, her lawyer, Hossein-Ali Hatami, formally appealed the decision and requested judicial review before a higher court.

Makvandi was arrested by government forces on 8 January 2026 during nationwide protests in Izeh. After spending approximately three months in detention and interrogation, she was temporarily released on 8 April 2026 upon posting bail of one billion tomans.



### 19. Diana Taherabadi

Diana Taherabadi, a 16-year-old student, was arrested by security forces at her family home on 25 January 2026 and remains in detention more than four months later.

According to reports, she is currently being held at Kachouii Juvenile Correction and Rehabilitation Center. She has been allowed family visits; however, sources close to her family report that she was subjected to coerced confessions during detention.

During court proceedings, Taherabadi rejected the allegations against her and stated that she had no involvement in the activities attributed to her. At the latest hearing, authorities announced that, due to the seriousness of the charges, her case would be transferred to Tehran for further judicial review.

It had previously been reported that she would be referred to the Legal Medicine Organization for psychological and psychiatric evaluations. Her continued detention stands

in contrast to a statement made by the spokesperson of Iran’s Ministry of Education on 2 February 2026, who claimed that all students arrested during the January protests had been released in the early days following their detention.



## 20. **Maedeh Rahimi (Yeganeh)**

Maedeh Rahimi, known as “Yeganeh,” is a 27-year-old resident of Isfahan who was arrested at her home by Ministry of Intelligence agents on 29 April 2026.

She is currently being held in Dolatabad Prison in Isfahan. The charges against her include “disturbing public opinion” and “disrupting public order.” Reports indicate that she has not yet been granted access to legal counsel.

### **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.

