

REPORT ON AZERBAIJANI TURK WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN IRAN

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1 ABOUT THIS INITIATIVE GROUP

The coverage of the latest protests in Iran depicts a significant gap in reporting human rights violations against minorities. To fill this gap, we, as a group of Azerbaijanis from Iran, currently in academia in the US and Canada, have formed an ad hoc initiative group to facilitate the preparation of a human rights report on Azerbaijanis facing injustice in Iran. This report is prepared in collaboration with the Azerbaijani human rights networks inside Iran, composed of sixteen human rights activists, to cover the human rights violations by the Iranian government in the Azerbaijan region of Iran.¹

Initiative Group Members:

Behzad Jeddi, Ph.D. student in Economics, Iowa State University

Lale Javanshir, Ph.D. in Turkish and Ottoman Studies, University of Toronto

Ramin Jabbarli, Ph.D. student in Sociology, University of Washington

Turkan Bozkurt, M.A. in Near and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Toronto

¹Report was edited by Csaba John Csukás.

2 SUMMARY

This report (September 17, 2022-February 1, 2023) has been prepared by a group of Azerbaijani human rights defenders regarding the latest status of the human rights violations of the Azerbaijani Turk women and children in Iran by examining the 2022 and 2023 Iran protests.

Giving an estimate of the population count of Azerbaijani Turks in Iran is very challenging as the Iranian government has never released any official demographic statistics for the ethnic and linguistic groups.² However, during his official visit to Turkey in January of 2011, former Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi declared that forty percent of Iranians speak Turkish:

“We speak almost the same language. Forty percent of Iranians speak Turkish. This is a big link between Turkey and Iran.”

This report aims to close the gaps in reporting human rights violations by the Islamic Republic of Iran. This is a human rights report on the Azerbaijani Turk women and children protestors arrested, summoned, suspended from work, shot to death, and tortured by the Iranian regime's forces.

We were able to confirm the identity of only 11 Azerbaijani Turk women and children who were murdered due to physical abuse, direct shooting, and torture by the various security forces and courts of the Islamic Republic of Iran. In some cases, arrested persons who experienced severe physical and mental trauma while detained committed suicide after being released.

Part A focuses on 11 women and child protestors murdered by Iran's repressive regime's forces.

Part B explains the cases of 79 female and child protestors who were arrested and released till the end of their case process.

Part C will analyze three individuals summoned by the intelligence ministry and provide details on their cases.

In part D, we will focus on the case of one person who was suspended from working as a form of punishment.

In part E, we will examine the case of an Azerbaijani female lawyer detained and charged by Iran's judicial system.

Part F will review the status of 20 sentenced individuals arrested throughout the protests. They have been sentenced to various punishments.

²<https://www.voanews.com/a/azerbaijani-turks-in-iran-demand-freedom-justice-national-government-/6830812.html>

3 INTRODUCTION

The demonstrations that started after Mahsa Amini's death have deep social roots. The latest protests have shown that gender inequality caused massive nationwide protests in Iran. Indeed, protests were sparked by the death of Mahsa Amini on September 16, 2022, after the morality police arrested her. This 22-year-old girl was detained by Tehran's "morality police" on September 14. She was transferred to a hospital that same day in a coma and died on September 16. The police claimed that Mahsa Amini had a heart attack, but in an interview, Amini's uncle called her heart disease a fabrication and confirmed Mahsa was completely healthy. Unfair laws and gender inequality explained below led to enormous demonstrations against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran, approved by the government of that time right after the Iranian revolution, includes the prevalence of patriarchal, traditional, and misogynist views and imposed laws. Skimming over Iran's constitution will be sufficient to clearly understand women's and children's rights status in Iran. For example, according to article 907³ of the Civil Laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a son's share of inheritance is twice that of a daughter. Or according to Civil laws, article 1117³, a man is allowed to prohibit his wife from her profession or job for the dignity and practicality of the family unit.

Gender inequality in the constitution has affected all aspects of women's life in Iran. Social institutions and laws have pushed women to a lower social status. For instance, by Iranian judicial law, women's testimony weighs half of the men's testimony. Another example of inequality in Iranian penal laws is article 560⁴, which puts value on women's life as half as men's.

Based on Iranian Civil law, article 1108:³ "If a woman refuses to fulfill the duties of marriage, she will not be entitled to alimony." The support of the law has caused men to use this coercion of the law against women, and if they do not comply, impose some mandatory violence on women.

Women cannot run for presidency and are not qualified to be judges. Article 115⁵ of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic says: "The president must be elected among religious and political men." This means that women cannot be president under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another example of imposed inequality on women in Iran is the right to have a passport. Iranian laws make this thing so difficult for women. According to Iranian regulations, a married woman must apply for a passport with the written consent of her husband. According to the regulations, married women cannot have passports without their husband's written and notarized consent.

³https://www.usb.ac.ir/FileUpload/7242_2017-3-8-12-27-22.pdf

⁴https://umsu.ac.ir/uploads/23_Islamic_Penal_Law_1392_Tazirat_1375.pdf

⁵https://www.shora-gc.ir/files/fa/news/1398/9/21/4354_236.pdf

Therefore, women do not have the right to leave the country without having consent from their husbands.

Mandatory hijab, child marriage, lack of right to divorce, rights for child custody, lack of freedom to choose education and field of study, lack of right to travel without the permission of spouse or guardian, lack of right to enter sports grounds, the institutionalization of murder and killing of women (Based on article 630⁶ of the Islamic Penal law), etc., are clear examples of systemic discrimination against women which makes them second-class citizens with restricted rights.

4 ABOUT THE REPORT

In reporting human rights violations, ethnicity and gender should receive specific attention as Iran's government implements systemic discrimination that directly affects these groups' well-being. Although Iran's population is highly diverse, the laws and regulations in Iran do not accommodate this diversity, and in many cases, it violates very fundamental rights. Evidence shows that the government's approach to these groups has been different in social events, such as protests and dissatisfactions.

Although formal barriers to opportunities have been removed in the context of women's rights in many countries, many social institutions, etiquettes, and norms have promoted inequalities against women. However, both formal and informal institutions in Iran are against women's rights. Generally, Iran has been stratified along the lines of race, gender and, religion. Iran's government, constitutions, and institutions have been shaped based on the Persian language, men's domination, and the Shia religion. By looking at the statistics of the recent protests on Iran's map, we observe that victim protestors are primarily located in the border provinces of Iran where non-Persian ethnic or non-Shia groups live. Based on the collected evidence from eyewitnesses, victims' families, published information, and the protestors, the security and IRGC forces have deliberately used heavy, semi-heavy weapons, helicopters, "hexachloroethane" gas, and firearms to stifle protests more in those regions.

In Iran, systemic discrimination has several layers. To enjoy full human and civil rights in Iran and be considered a first-class citizen, one should be a Persian Shia man who supports the ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran. For instance, if a person is Persian, a Shia woman who does not support the Ideology of the Islamic Republic of Iran is discriminated against from only two aspects. First, for being a woman, and second, for not supporting the regime's ideology. There is significantly more discrimination against, for example, a non-Persian Baluchi woman who is not-

⁶Article 630: "If a man sees his wife committing adultery with a man and knows that the woman is docile, husband can kill them at the same time..."

Shia. Such a person would be subject to systemic discrimination for not being Persian, not being a man, and having different religious beliefs. All these discriminations that have been underpinned in the constitution and social institutions have impacted the government's approach to protests too. When the government values minorities less than some people, naturally, the value of minorities' lives will not be equal to that of officially recognized ethnicities. As a result, during demonstrations, the government's approach to protests in minority-populated cities and areas might be different. Seeing minorities as second and third-class citizens has led to a harsher suppression of them. The government deploys every kind of weapon, regardless of whether those are heavy or light weapons, to these areas. Therefore, the death toll, methods, and weapons for killing in these areas might differ dramatically. This has been evident during the recent country-wide protests as well. During just two days, on September 30th 2022 and October 5th 2022, 129 people were brutally murdered by the government in the minority-populated city of Zahedan. Furthermore, 122 people were murdered in a Kurdish minority-populated area. Among the murdered Azerbaijani Turk protestors, 11 people were children and women. Also, the share of women and children was significantly high among the detained protestors in the Azerbaijan region of Iran. Unfortunately, international human rights reporters mostly do not have adequate access to this information from remote areas, even though the latest news analysis has shown that the government stifles non-Persian women and children harsher than Persian women and children. Because of a lack of adequate access to human rights information, human rights organizations rarely reflect human rights violations in the border provinces of Iran, where discrimination against them is manifold, and their rights are continuously and systematically violated.

The U.S. and Canada-based Azerbaijani human rights defenders utilized their networks with the Azerbaijani human rights defenders inside of Iran and prepared this report on women and children rights status in West Azerbaijan, East Azerbaijan, Ardabil, Zanjan, and Qazvin provinces. The regime's suppression of protestors has been harsher in Azerbaijan, Baluchistan, and Kurdistan. The released videos show that in Zahedan, Baluchistan, police and security forces used machine guns many times to shoot people. Some sources in Zahedan said that helicopters also fired at protesting people.⁷ The "Baluch Activists Campaign,"⁸ based in the United Kingdom, has published the names of 96 protestors shot dead in Zahedan and announced that more than 300 people were injured due to gunshot wounds during a demonstration on September 30th, 2022. At least 12 children were murdered by direct shooting. Amnesty International has documented "a pattern of security forces repeatedly using lethal force against protesters, bystanders and worshippers from the Baluchi ethnic minority in Sistan and Baluchistan province on a mass scale that surpasses even the horrifically high levels of violence unleashed against the population in the rest

⁷<https://rb.gy/kkykxb>

⁸<https://tinyurl.com/mr2tk5k3>

of the country.”⁹ Regarding the repressive crackdown on the Baluchi minority, Moinaddin Saeedi, the parliamentarian for Charbahar-Sistan and Baluchistan province, criticized the authority’s behavior toward the Baluchi minority during nationwide protests. He said: “The question here is why is the response [of security forces] to protesters [in Sistan and Baluchistan province] different to that in other places? ... Over a third of people murdered during the unrest across the country have been murdered in Baluchistan. Why?”¹⁰

Iranian security forces have used heavy weapons¹¹ to suppress protests in West Azerbaijan-Mahabad, Piranshahr. Suppression of people was carried out with all kinds of light, semi-heavy, and heavy weapons such as Kalashnikov fully automatic rifles, Dshk belt-fed machine guns, and snipers stationed atop of the buildings.¹²

This report has compiled most of the information about victims from the Azerbaijani Human rights defenders outside and inside Iran, eyewitnesses, victims’ relatives, footage, and local news resources and journalists.

5 CLASSIFICATION OF THE COLLECTED INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

During the latest demonstrations, the government began suppressing these protestors with live ammunition. Security forces arrested, injured, or shot dead numerous protestors.

Live ammunition gunfire caused the majority of the fatalities. Azerbaijani casualties cannot be readily identified in Tehran and other major cities with a sizable Azerbaijani population due to a lack of information about the victims. Nonetheless, some have been identified based on funeral recordings, family members’ statements, human rights defenders’ investigations, and victims’ social media profiles. In the meantime, in certain instances, security authorities pressure victims’ relatives to bury the dead outside the capital city, Tehran, such as their home towns. In these examples, the victims’ origin can be determined. We could confirm the identities of eleven Azerbaijani women and children who lost their lives.

⁹<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/6193/2022/en/>

¹⁰<https://www.entekhab.ir/fa/news/702051>

¹¹<https://ir.voanews.com/a/mahabad-sunday-20-nov/6843235.html>

¹²<https://www.akhbar-rooz.com/180557/1401/08/28/>

6 ETHNIC CHILDREN'S RIGHTS IN IRAN

Iranian women and children, especially ethnic minorities, are continually exposed to various harms and violence, such as physical violence¹³ and verbal abuse. This violence results in child suicides, depression, drug addiction, and divorce. Furthermore, such violence results in the rising trend of girls running away from home and family to seek refuge in bigger cities. Farzaneh Mehdizadeh, Director General of the Clinical Examination Office of the Forensic Medicine Organization, announced that in this year, 2022, 75,000 women and children have referred to forensic medicine because of physical injuries caused by domestic violence.¹⁴ Alongside these issues, Minority children face other difficulties. Minority children have been denied learning their mother language. Baluch, Azerbaijani Turk, Arab, and Kurdish children have been mandated to get an education in Farsi, while their mother languages are banned in the Iranian education system. This resulted in high school dropout rates among non-Persian children and higher illiterate populations in non-Persian regions. Most of these children have become child labor.¹⁵

In Iran, there is also a discriminatory regulation regarding name choices for ethnic children. The Iranian registrar's office has created a list of 'approved' names to choose for born babies. The list primarily includes Islamic, Persian, and religious names. Therefore, most names with non-Persian roots are excluded from the list, and non-Persian parents are not free to choose names from their language and culture. For example, in the Azerbaijan region of Iran, many parents have had problems getting birth certificates and identification cards because they wanted Azerbaijani and Turkic names that are not included in the pre-defined list. Although Azerbaijani and other Turks account for almost half of Iran's population, the regulation considers the Azerbaijani and Turkic names as foreign names and excludes those names from the list. When Azerbaijani parents choose names that are not on the approved list, their children will automatically be denied birth certificates and identity documents, which violates parents' and children's rights. Those who wanted Azerbaijani names for their children must enter a protracted bureaucratic battle. In some cases, parents give up and pick an approved name. The naming regulation is part of Iran's long-term Persianization policies. Currently, many Azerbaijani and other ethnic children have no identity documents. Therefore, they are excluded from all social and governmental services, including schooling and healthcare. This is an infringement of article 7 of the 1990 Convention on the Rights of the Child that Iran signed previously.

The situation is even worse for Baluchi children, who have been deprived of identity docu-

¹³Physical violence by parents against children is also allowed under the name of "punishment" according to article 1179 Iranian Civil Law, provided that it does not go beyond "conventional" limits.

¹⁴<https://tinyurl.com/4ue8ca6w>

¹⁵<https://tinyurl.com/bddjznur>

ments. In an interview with the Khane Mellat News Agency, Massoud Rezai, a former member of the Iranian Parliament's Social Commission, provided a rough estimate of the undocumented Baluchi population to be approximately over a million cases, of which perhaps 400,000 are children. Some researchers have estimated about 100,000 in Sistan and Baluchistan provinces alone. People and kids without identity documents are deprived of all fundamental rights and social services, including healthcare and education.

7 CHILD MARRIAGE IN AZERBAIJAN REGION OF IRAN

Although child marriage has a cultural and religious background, the governments and the constitutions also play a significant role in promoting and institutionalizing this oppression against women and children. According to Iranian civil law, article 1210,¹⁶ and Islamic rules, the age of puberty for girls is 9, and for boys is 15 years. However, based on Article 1041 of civil law,¹⁶ the marriage of girls under 13 and boys under 15 is subject to their parents' permission, on the condition that it is expedient, and it can be done with the judgment of a competent court.

"The latest statistics published by the Iranian Statistics Center indicate that 9,753 girls aged 10 to 14 got married in the spring of 2022, which is a record high compared to the seasonal statistics of the last two years. The statistic reveals 32% growth in underaged female marriages mostly aged between 10 to 14, compared to the same period in the spring of 2020. According to the same statistics, 45,552 girls aged from 15 to 19 were also married in the same period."¹⁷ The statistics only include marriages registered in the Civil Registry Organization. However, according to the ISNA news agency, most child marriages are not registered, leading to the lack of accurate estimates on underaged marriages. Moreover, the reports rarely include underaged married males.

Beyond child marriage, Iranian society has faced other serious problems such as underaged divorced mothers. In some cases, they also have children, but they don't have economic resources to cover living expenses. According to the civil registry statistics, from March 6th to November 19th, 2022, 969 children were born to mothers under the age of 15, and 44,896 children were born to mothers aged 15 to 19.¹⁷

Research has shown that economic hardship and inability to cover children's expenses, poverty, receiving money in exchange for marriage, and illiteracy are the essential factors for the increase in child marriage in Iran. Inequality in the disruption of wealth in Iran has made non-Persian children more vulnerable to these social problems. Poor economy among non-Persian societies has made these social phenomena more common. For example, the prevalence of child marriage in

¹⁶https://www.usb.ac.ir/FileUpload/7242_2017-3-8-12-27-22.pdf

¹⁷<https://www.isna.ir/>

Ardabil province (Azerbaijani populated province) is alarming, and a solution must be thought of to stop this trend. Statistics show that out of the total of 12,000 marriages in 2019 in Ardabil province, 37% were girls between the ages of 10 and 14, and 42% of total recorded marriages in the same year were girls under 19 years old.¹⁸

A MURDERED WOMEN AND CHILDREN










After the nationwide demonstrations began in September 2022, the Iranian regime, which has always systematically discriminated against women and treated them as lower-class citizens, started to stifle their protests. As we discussed above, discrimination against women has been underpinned by Iran's constitution. Iran's constitution needs significant reforms and rewriting based on the demands of modern society. Iran's constitution has been formed based on the Islamic/Shia religion and Persian culture. As a result, given the ethnic diversity in Iran, women's ethnic background also influences their social status and class. For instance, women with Azerbaijani Turk backgrounds are not equal to Persian women. Similarly, Baluch women suffer triple discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and religion, given their Sunni background in a Shia-based system. Women and children are the main targets of the repressive regime in Iran. The regime has murdered at least 44 children during the ongoing protests. At least 11 Azerbaijani Turk women and children were murdered by the repressive forces in Iran. Amnesty International has announced:

"Children represent 14% of overall deaths of protesters and bystanders recorded by Amnesty International, which exceeds 300 since the protests erupted. Our investigations into killings by security forces continue, and the number of those murdered, including children, is believed to be higher."

A day after demonstrations in Tabriz, Zanjan joined protests on September 21st, 2022. The gatherings of protestors in Zanjan started around 18:00 on Wednesday and gradually spread to other city's central districts. With the increase in the number of those protesting, the police and security forces assaulted the citizens with batons, threw tear gas, and fired directly at the protestors with shotguns. Several citizens were injured due to the impact of metal bullets and batons. Police and security forces used many tools and methods to end the protests. During the demonstrations, **Mehrdad Ghorbani** and **Mehdi Mousavi** were shot dead by the regime's forces on Wednesday, September 21st, 2022. The local reports confirmed that Mehdi Mousavi, a minor, was murdered by five bullets and numerous baton blows to his head and body. Also, Mehdi Mousavi was only 16 years old when he died.

According to local reports, the authorities did not transfer Mehdi Mousavi's corpse to his family due to pressure from intelligence agents. The officers only allowed the family to attend his burial. Mehdi Mousavi's body was taken directly from the hospital to Behesht Zahra Cemetery in

¹⁸<https://kayhan.ir/fa/news>

Victim's name	Birth year	Occupation	City	Gender	Photo
Mehrdad Ghorbani	2004	Student	Zanjan	Male	
Mehdi Mousavi	2006	Student	Zanjan	Male	
Hadis Najafi	1999	Receptionist	Karaj	Female	
Sarina Esmailzadeh	2006	Student	Karaj	Female	
Asra Panahi	2006	Student	Ardabil	Female	
Esmail Heydari	2004	Worker	Ardabil	Male	
Parisa Bahmani	1970	Doctor	Zanjan	Female	
Nasim Sedghi	2000	Unknown	West Azerbaijan-Urmia	Female	
Yalda Aghafazli Irdmosi	2003	Student	Tehran	Female	
Aylar Haghi	1999	Doctor	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	Female	
Arshia Emamgholizadeh Alamdari	2006	Student	Elemdar-East Azerbaijan	Male	

Zanjan and was buried without the presence of most of his relatives and other citizens of Zanjan and only in the presence of a few members of his family.

The security agents threatened Mehdi Mousavi's family that if they revealed that he was murdered by the police officers of the Islamic Republic, they would also arrest and "eliminate" the other family members. Additionally, several people from Zanjan reported that three to five protestors

were murdered in the protests in Zanjan. However, those claims were challenging to determine, and we could not confirm the identities of the other victims.

According to the local reports, 23-year-old **Hadis Najafi** suffered many injuries from six bullets in her abdomen, neck, heart, and hand by the security forces in Karaj on September 21st 2022, and died after being transferred to Qaim Hospital in Karaj.

Videos and photos have shown that victims were hit and shot in their heads. Fired bullets killed Hadis Najafi. Her mother and sister said that when the security forces gave Hadis's corpse, they saw a bullet wound on her face. We could not confirm if she had prior activities regarding women's rights; however, she posted videos on her Instagram and TikTok account dancing to the latest viral trend, including Turkish pop music and Azerbaijani songs, which show that she was against the mandatory hijab. In her last Instagram story, she says, "I am going to the protests with excitement. A few years later, I want to look back and feel happy that I attended the protests and everything has changed."

Unfortunately, hijabs are mandatory in public for all women in Iran, regardless of religion or nationality. Hadis, 23, was part of the new generation in Azerbaijan. She knew women's and national rights, including Azerbaijani culture. She loved sharing fashion on her Instagram, styling her hair with and without her hijab with Turkish captions and bio. In her Instagram Bio, she wrote, "Fill my place now if there is another me" in Turkish. She was a TikToker shot dead while protesting for women's rights and has become a symbol of Azerbaijani resistance.

One of the identified victims, **Sarina Esmailzadeh**, a 16-year-old female from Mehrshahr, Karaj, was murdered by the repressive forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran during these nationwide protests On September 21st 2022. According to local news and reports, this teenager's mother could not bear her daughter's death and committed suicide.

Esmail Heydari, 18 years old, from Qurt Tepe village in Meshginshahr city of Ardabil province, was murdered on September 23rd. He lived alone in Motelgo in Nishtarud, Mazandaran, and worked in a bakery to send money to his parents in the village.

A bullet shot by the intelligence forces killed **Dr. Parisa Bahmani**. Parisa Bahmani was a general surgeon from Zanjan city of Azerbaijan. She was shot to death on October 26th in a gathering of doctors in front of the Tehran Medical System building and was brutally attacked by Iranian security forces.

On October 31, **Nasim Sedghi**, a 22-year-old girl, was murdered by security forces during the protests in Urmia, West Azerbaijan. Nasim Sedghi died in the demonstrations by direct fire from

the security forces. Her family was under pressure from the security agencies to announce the cause of her death as an accident. Her body was buried on November 2 under strict security measures in Shahindej cemetery.

Another victim was **Asra Panahi**, who died on October 14th after being beaten by the security forces in the Ardabil Province. Some other students of Shahed high school in Ardabil were also arrested for refusing to attend the government-mandated march. Asra Panahi, a 15-year-old student, was murdered by internal bleeding that she suffered due to the brutal beating. On October 14th, 2022, the government agents planned a pro-regime rally in Ardabil province in Iran. They mandated the school girls to participate and chant pro-regime slogans. However, many school girls refused the authorities and chanted anti-regime slogans such as "Death to Dictator". Asra was among those brave schoolgirls.

19-year-old **Yalda Aghafazli Irdmosi** was arrested during the protests in Tehran and subjected to severe torture and beatings in Qarchak prison. Yalda Aghafazli Irdmosi, originally from Sarein-Ardabil province, lived in Tehran and is said to have committed suicide. According to her family, she was a teenager full of joy and enthusiasm with no mental issues. A few days after her release, her suicide news was published. Her funeral was held on Saturday, November 21st, under the security forces' close supervision. Yalda Aghafazli Irdmosi's family had been forced to remain silent under threats by the security forces.

Yalda's relatives say she was arrested on November 4th and released on November 15th. On Friday, November 20th, she committed suicide due to her trauma in custody and the maltreatment and torture she experienced during the detention. Yalda Aghafazli Irdmosi was pressured by security agents after her release, and her communication was limited.

On November 16th, **Aylar Haghi**, an Azerbaijani medical student from Malekan, East Azerbaijan, died in the protests in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan. In an audio file, Mahmoud Jafari, Aylar Haghi's uncle, stated that Aylar's death was due to a direct bullet hit to the back of her head. The security forces did not hand over Aylar's body to her family for two days. Intelligence forces forced Aylar's family to state the scenario of a fall from a height and rebar sinking into her stomach. In a desperate attempt, the regime tried to convince Haghi's family to state the cause of their daughter's death as falling from a height as a suicide. Intelligence forces arrested Aylar's father after he resisted following the order. The security forces handed over the body of this dead Azerbaijani woman under the condition that she must be quietly buried in Wadi Rahmat Cemetery, far from her hometown. According to the local sources and Aylar's father, her uncle was also arrested by the forces after he spread the audio file. As of the time of this report, there have been no updates about his situation.

Aylar Haghi's family in Tabriz has been under pressure and all kinds of threats from the security forces of the Iranian regime. According to the human rights organization "ARCH," the regime deliberately placed security forces in the neighborhood leading to Mr. Haghi's house to make sure her family mourned quietly.


Arshia Emamgholizadeh Alamdari, a 16-year-old teenager, was arrested for throwing a turban in Jolfa. He was detained for ten days and committed suicide two days after his release.






















Arshia, originally from Alamdar (Hadishahr), East Azerbaijan, and a Rasht resident, had visited his hometown to visit his relatives. There, security forces identified and summoned him for throwing a turban. Arshia's father refused to hand him over, and they returned to Rasht, but Arshia's family was forced to return to Alamdar due to repeated threats from the security forces. Arshia, after introducing himself to the judicial authorities, was first transferred to Alamdar Detention Center, and the authorities transferred him to Tabriz.




















According to a local source, after being released, Arshaia admitted that "every night they forced us to take pills." This Azerbaijani teenager suffered from severe depression after his temporary release because of the torture and maltreatment he experienced during his arrest. Eventually, he committed suicide and ended his life only a few days after returning from prison.

While he was in custody, according to the information from the police force, he was severely beaten. After his release, he went to a doctor to treat the wounds caused by the torture. According to the comments of the relatives of Arshia Emam Gholizadeh, the pressure on him during his arrest and the physical and psychological trauma caused by the torture led him to commit suicide. There has not been any official explanation about the medicine that was given to Arshia. This crime frequently happens in Iran prisons and requires a full investigation.

B ARRESTED AND RELEASED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Name	City	Photo
Atila Arfai	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Sama (Sakineh) Piran	Ardabil	
Mina Yaghoubi	Arak	
Mastaneh Zeynalzadeh	West Azerbaijan-Khoy	
Negin Ahmadi	West Azerbaijan- Khoy	

Melika Gharagozlu	Karaj	
Armita Pavir	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Saeedeh Moradi	Zanjan- Abhar	
Arezoo Khaleghi	Ardabil	
Hamideh Ketabdar	Qom	
Soda Menari	Ardabil	
Sadaf Akbari	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Ayda Akbari	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Zahra Saleh	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Sarina Kharrazi	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Vida Akbari	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Rana Mostofi Shams	East Azerbaijan- Urmia	
Sara Mostofi Shams	East Azerbaijan- Urmia	
Saba Abdollahi	Arak	
Roghayyeh Bigdeli	Karaj	
Mitra Javadi	West Azerbaijan - Sain Qaleh	
Nazanin Zahra Chamani	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Hadiyeh Pourafrouz	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Alma Abdollahzadeh	Karaj	
Roshanak Moulai	Karaj	
Farnoosh Esmi	Hamadan	

Nozhan Bazazzadeh	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Zahra Nader	Hamadan	
Zohreh Aliakbari Jam	Tehran	
Hannaneh Ghanbari	Qazvin	
Tahereh Brujeni	Tehran- Ghods City	
Leila Naseri	East Azerbaijan	
Zahra (Nazanin) Moradkhanlou	East Azerbaijan	
Shaghayegh Alizadeh	West Azerbaijan	
Nazanin Kianbakht	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Farnaz Alizadeh Ghanbar	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Maliheh Baniasad	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Vahideh Khanpour	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Sonia Rahmanzadeh	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Amirreza Bagheri	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Zahra Eskandari	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Homeyra Torabi	East Azerbaijan-Ahar	
Sedigheh Adibeyg	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Aysan Adibeyg	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	
Zahra Azimi	West Azerbaijan- Tekab	

Atila Arfai, 16-year-old, was arrested on September 21st in Tabriz. After his arrest, the agents

transferred him to Basminj's prison in Tabriz. According to his relatives, Atila has been suffering from chronic asthma, increasing his family's concern. Atila faced severe assault; as a result, his nose was broken, and various parts of his face and body were injured and bruised. Atila Arfai's case has been sent to the 15th branch of the Tabriz General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office (Tabatabai Complex). The case investigator has issued him bail of 4 billion Rials. "Security office of the Tabriz IRGC prevented the temporary release of Atila." Based on what the investigator of the case told the family of Atila Arfai, this 16-year-old teenager is accused of "organizing and encouraging citizens to riot through social networks," "leading street riots," and "damaging property." Eventually, he was released temporarily on bail. After being released, he said he was subjected to the most severe torture because he spoke proper Azerbaijani Turkish during interrogations and used this language in his daily conversations and WhatsApp.

Haleh Ershadi was arrested during protests in Ardabil city by Iran's security institutions on Thursday, September 22nd. There has been no information about the health status of these citizens, and the security institutions refused to give any information to the families and relatives. We could not receive any update on her case until the current report.

On September 22nd, many people were arrested in a demonstration in Malekan city in the East Azerbaijan province. **Mobina Rahmani, Mehri Golafshan, Romina Rahmani, and Asal Nahi** – a 15-year-old student- were arrested by the security and police forces on September 28th, in Malekan.

Asal Nahi has been transferred to the central prison of Tabriz. Asal has been denied access to phone calls outside the prison to her family.

Ms. Romina Rahmani was arrested and sent to Maragheh prison with her 2-month-old baby. After a few days, the authorities separated her infant Artia from her mother in Maragheh prison. According to the published information, Ms. Romina Rahmani was in solitary confinement in Maragheh prison, and they did not even let the mother hear her baby's voice. They have banned her from meeting and talking to other people. Romina and Mobina Rahmani and Mehri Gol Afshan were also arrested at a family gathering in Malekan. There is no further information about her latest situation.

On October 30th, **Fatemeh Alefi** was released on bail until the end of the proceeding. Fatemeh Alefi was arrested by the security forces in Tabriz on Wednesday, October 26th, and taken to the prison of this city. According to witnesses, Fatemeh Alefi was beaten by the Iranian government's repressive agents during her arrest.

On the evening of October 27th, **Hanan Moazzen**, a bachelor's student in mining engineering

at the Sahand University of Technology, was arrested during protests on Shahnaz Street in Tabriz. There is no information about his current situation and the forces that arrested him. Also, no information has been published about his accusations.

On November 12th, **Sama (Sakineh) Piran**, a student, was released from the central prison of Tabriz after posting bail until the end of the proceedings. Sama Piran, originally from Ardabil-Parsabad, was arrested and transferred to Tabriz Central Prison by the security forces in Tabriz on Thursday, September 29th.

On December 1st, **Mina Yaghoubi** was temporarily released on bail until the end of the proceedings. According to a government media report, she attempted suicide twice during her arrest. But severe torture signs were on her face after she was released on bail. Around her eyes were bruised entirely. She was utterly bruised around her eyes, and her face was swollen.

Leila Alaviyeh, Nazanin Ghahramani, and Samaneh Fathi — 15-year-olds — were released on bail until the end of proceedings in Urmia, West Azerbaijan. These individuals were arrested in Urmia. Samaneh Fathi was arrested on October 29th 2022 in Urmia. Their trial was held on February 1st. Judge Najafzadeh did not let them present their defense. According to informed sources, these young people have been accused of "acting to harm the integrity or independence of the country," "collecting and colluding to act against national security through teaching Molotov cocktails," and "propaganda against the system." Judge Najafzadeh has verbally announced the possibility of these young people being sentenced to "2 to 5 years in prison."

The court session, which was held in the third branch of the Urmia Revolutionary Court, ended without issuing a verdict and with only five minutes for the defendants to defend the case. Other sessions may be held in the near future.

Mastaneh Zeynalzadeh, arrested by the security forces in Khoy, West Azerbaijan, on October 31st, was released from the Khoy prison on November 8th after posting bail. According to her relatives, her arrest was on charges of "throwing turban," "insulting the leadership," and "revealing her hair without the hijab in public."

On December 1st, **Negin Ahmadi** was released from Khoy prison in West Azerbaijan after posting bail until the end of the proceedings. The charge brought against her in the preliminary trial stage was "propaganda against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran." Negin Ahmadi was arrested by the security forces on November 19th and taken to the Khoy prison without any charges. The judicial authorities were against accepting the order and issuing her temporary release. Despite the pursuit of Ahmadi's family in the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office

of Khoy, her family was not given a clear answer by the judicial and security officials.

On December 20th, **Melika Gharagozlu** was temporarily released on bail. Zahra Minoui, a lawyer, published this news on her Instagram page and wrote: "Melika Gharagozlu was temporarily released from the psychiatric hospital tonight with the suspension of the execution of the sentence so that the treatment process and medical commissions can continue." Melika Gharagozlu is from Zanzan and is a journalism student at Allameh University. She was arrested on Sunday, October 2nd when the security forces broke the locked door of her house and raided her home. She was transferred to the Qarchak Prison for a while. After that Iran's security forces started a stereotypical and dangerous scenario against Melika Gharagozlu. Melika Gharagozlu was transferred to the Razi Amin Abad Hospital. The government's aim with this transfer is to insinuate that Melika Gharagozlu has psychological problems.

According to the tweet of Mohammad Ali Kamfirouzi, Melika's lawyer, in a phone call, she told her mother that last night (on December 3rd), she was assaulted by several men at Razi Amin Abad Hospital. They said they intended to inject her with an ampoule and tie her to the bed. Melika Gharagozlu protested this situation and started a hunger strike in December. The government has not revealed any information about an ampoule that security forces tried to inject into Melika Gharagozlu. It should be mentioned that several detained protestors had been forced to take unknown pills. They committed suicide after their release. Arshia Emamgholizadeh Alamdari, who died of suicide, revealed that security forces forced him to take drugs after being released from prison. It seems that the government uses these unknown ampoules and pills against opponents.

On December 8th, **Armita Pavir** was released after posting bail until the end of proceedings. Intelligence forces arrested Armita Paver on October 31st, 2022, in front of the Madani University of Azerbaijan. This student of Shahid Madani University was on a hunger strike since November 22nd to protest the indecisiveness and lack of due process on her case by the judicial authorities. She was transferred from Tabriz Central Prison to Tabriz Intelligence Department daily for questioning. It should be noted that this Azerbaijani student was deprived of the right to visit with her family and make phone calls.

On October 6th, 2022, **Zahra Pandi**, a student activist from Sarab, was arrested in Tabriz. No news has been published about the whereabouts of this student activist.

Aylar Ahmadi was arrested by the security forces at the gathering, on October 8th, in Urmia. No information has been published about her location and the reason for the arrest.

On October 15th, 2022, **Maryam Afsharnia** was arrested during a demonstration in Ardabil. No information has been published about their accusations and the reason for the arrest.

Mahsa Yazdani, the coach of the official Skating Federation and an Aslam (Talesh) resident, was arrested by the security forces after participating in the demonstrations on October 26th. Until this report, there was no information about Mahsa Yazdani's condition.

On November 3rd, **Saeedeh Moradi**, a photographer and one of the detainees, was released from Safar Abad Zanjan prison. Ms. Moradi's release was conditional after serving two weeks of her 6-month sentence. Saeedeh Moradi was arrested on December 28th by the judicial authorities and sent to the Safar Abad prison quarantine ward in Zanjan to execute the sentence. Previously, during recent protests in Zanjan-Abhar, police and security officers arrested many citizens during a protest rally on Wednesday, September 21st. During the demonstration, Saeedeh Moradi was detained by the security forces. After being arrested, Saeedeh Moradi was transferred to the Zanjan - Safarabad prison. She was later released from Safarabad prison in Zanjan after posting bail until the end of the proceedings.

Arezoo Khaleghi was released on bail until the end of the proceeding. On November 3rd, intelligence forces arrested Arezoo Khaleghi in Ardabil.

On November 15th, **Saba Abdollahi** was arrested in Arak by the security forces. Saba Abdollahi is a feminist activist, a student of western philosophy, a film critic, and the editor of the student magazine "Bidad."

Ayda Akbari and **Sadaf Akbari** were released on bail until the end of the proceeding. On November 18th 2022, Ayda Akbari and Sadaf Akbari were arrested in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan. Ayda Akbari is a Medical student, and Sadaf Akbari is a dental student at Tabriz University.

On November 12th, **Soda Manari**, an underaged minor, was arrested and beaten by security forces in front of Hafez Park in Ardabil, where she distributed flowers and shouted slogans. Despite following up with the family of this Azerbaijani student in the General and Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office of Ardabil city, they have not yet been given a clear answer by the judicial and security authorities. According to Soda Manari's relatives, considering that more than two months have passed since Souda's arrest, she is detained without charge in Ardabil prison. She is a teenager and is not of the legal age to be imprisoned, and Ardabil prison's situation is unsuitable for young girls. Also, footage of her shouting slogans have gone viral online. She is known as a brave girl in Azerbaijan. Her videos spread a sense of bravery in society. Because of all these reasons, there is deep concern about her condition and the possible sentence she may face. In this case, detained people might be sentenced to heavy punishment. There is no accurate information about her status and possible accusations yet.

On November 15th, **Hamideh Ketabdar** was arrested by security forces. Hamida Ketabdar is the sister of Ibrahim Ketabdar, one of the victims of 2019 protests. There is no information about her latest situation.

On November 18th, **Zahra Saleh** was detained in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan. No information has been published about possible accusations and her location.

On November 17th, an Azerbaijani youth group was arrested en masse in Tabriz. Arrested youths included **Sarina Kharrazi** and **Aytek Ghorbani**, and there is no information about the detainees' place of detention and the detention conditions.

On November 19th, 2022, **Vida Akbari**, a senior English literature student, was arrested in Tabriz. No further information about her latest situation.

On November 17th, **Sara Mostofi Shams** and **Rana Mostofi Shams** were arrested by the security forces in Urmia, West Azerbaijan.

The mother of Sara and Rana informed us by sharing on her page that "Today, a man called me through my eldest daughter's phone and asked me to give him our home address. He said that they wanted to come and see my children's documents. I gave the address to these men. They came to our house and took my children's American passports and other documents." Her daughter Rana called a few minutes after and said that while she doesn't know where they are, she is with her sister, and they are being accused of spying for the American government.

On November 19th, security forces arrested and severely beat **Mitra Hasanzadeh** in the city of Ardabil during the 40th day anniversary of the death of Asra Panahi.

Mrs. **Roghayyeh Bigdeli**, a civil rights and women's rights activist, went to the Tehran security police on October 5th, 2022, after being summoned by phone several times and was arrested there without any explanation of the possible charges. Then she was transferred to Qarchak Varamin prison. Although more than four months have passed since her arrest, Roqiyeh Begdeli is deprived of proper medical attention in detention in Qarchak Varamin prison. An informed source regarding the physical condition of this citizen told Harana: "Ms. Bigdali's eye suffered a severe infection during her detention due to environmental pollution, and she needs serious surgery." But the prison authorities prevent her from being sent to a hospital outside the prison.

On January 16th, **Leila Naseri** was released from the Maragheh prison. Leila Naseri was arrested by the security forces on November 20th during the gatherings in Bonab, East Azerbaijan. Leila Naseri was transferred to the Maragheh prison. There was no detailed information about Ms. Naseri's status for a long time. There is no information about her charge.

On November 19th, **Mitra Javadi** was arrested by the security forces. She was accused by the first branch of the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office for "inciting people to war and killing to disrupt the country's security and propaganda for the benefit of opposition groups."

Nazanin Zahra Chamani and **Hadiyeh Pourafrouz** were arrested on November 16th during public protests in Tabriz. No information has been published about their whereabouts. Nazanin

Zahra Chamani is 17 years old, putting her on the list of arrested underage individuals.

On November 15th 2022, **Hadis Shahimi** was detained by security forces in Tabriz. No further information has been published.

On October 29th, **Alma Abdollahzadeh** was arrested and transferred to Qarchak prison. Although more than three months have passed since her arrest, she is still in jail without charges.

On September 23rd 2022, **Sepideh Ahmadkhani** was detained by security forces. Security forces raided her house and arrested her. There is no information on whereabouts and possible accusations.

Roshanak Moulai, a 23-year-old Azerbaijani girl, was arrested during the protests, taken to Qarchak prison in Varamin, and transferred to an unknown location. According to a report from his relatives, it has been a few days since the security forces transferred her from the prison to an unknown place. Roshanak Moulai is originally from Tabriz, East Azerbaijan.

On November 15th 2022, **Zahra Parvin** was arrested in Tabriz. There is no further information about her latest situation.

On December 7th, **Farnoosh Esmi**, an 18-year-old female blogger from Hamadan, was transferred to Evin prison two weeks after her arrest. The news published on social networks indicates that the family of Farnoosh Esmi had refused to publicize their daughter's arrest in the past two weeks due to security pressures.

On January 14th, **Nozhan Bazazzadeh**, **Farzaneh Ali**, and **Kosar Asadi** were released on bail until the end of the proceeding process. Nozhan Bazazzadeh was arrested by the security agents of the Iranian government in Tabriz and taken to an unknown place. According to her family, "She was arrested on Monday, November 28th 2022, in Tabriz, and the efforts of our family and relatives to find out about him have been unsuccessful." There is no information about the reasons for the arrest and the whereabouts.

Although more than two weeks have passed since **Khadijah Jahani's** arrest, she is still being held in the Qoshachai (Miandoab) prison in West Azerbaijan. There is no detailed information about the reasons for her arrest and the charges against her.

On November 15th, **Soheila Ojaghi** was arrested by security forces in Parand, Tehran, and taken to an unknown place.

Zahra Nader, a teenage protester, has been arrested in Hamadan and no information is available about her whereabouts.

On January 9th 2023, **Zohreh Aliakbari Jam**, a graduate of art and former secretary of the trade union council of Tarbiat Modares University, was released from Evin prison after posting bail until the end of the proceedings.

On December 19th, Zohreh Aliakbari Jam from Zanjani was arrested by the security forces in Tehran and taken to an unknown location. There was no information about her condition and whereabouts for a while. No information has been published about her possible charges.

On December 14th, security forces in Qazvin arrested **Hannaneh Ghanbari** and transferred her to an unknown location.

On December 21st, **Taherah Brujeni**, an Azerbaijani citizen, was detained in Quds City area of Tehran. Several armed men in a car without a license plate kidnapped Tahereh Brujeni from her workplace. There is no information about her whereabouts; Mrs. Tahereh Bejrovani's husband was murdered during the 2019 protests.

On January 28th, Taherah Brujeni was transferred from the detention center of the Ministry of Intelligence, known as ward 209, to the women's ward of Evin prison. There is no detailed information about the reasons for her arrest, the charges, and the process of her proceedings, but this arrest is likely related to support for the recent protests.

Earlier, Tahereh Brujeni, on her husband's birthday, commemorated Ali Fatuhi by publishing a clip on her Twitter account and wrote: "If Ali had not been shot dead, we would have celebrated his 40th birthday together today. But regret that our share of the homeland was not laughter and celebration but blood, tears, and pain."

Zahra (Nazanin) Moradkhanlou was released from Tabriz Central Prison by posting bail until the end of the proceedings. Security forces arrested Zahra Moradkhanlou on November 19th in Tabriz. There is no information about her possible accusations.

Sonia (Sona) Rahmanzadeh, an Azerbaijani blogger living in Tabriz, has been released from the women's ward of Tabriz Central Prison by posting bail until the end of the proceedings.

This Azerbaijani blogger wrote on his page: "Today they came and called my name and said freedom. They were right; my captivity was over. I gathered my things and returned to my home to my family, and the only thing that no one could take from me was my life and my smile." Mrs. Sonia Rahmanzadeh was arrested on December 18th, 2022, by the security forces in front of her house. There is no information about her charges.

Shaghayegh Alizadeh, a Tabriz University of Arts student living in Urmia, was arrested by the security forces on January 6th, 2023. There is no detailed information about the reasons for the arrest, the charge, and the place of transfer of this Azerbaijani student.

Nazanin Kianbakht, a graphic student of East Azerbaijan-Tabriz University of Arts, has been released from Tabriz Central Prison by posting bail until the end of the proceedings. There is no information about the reasons for her arrest, the details of the case, and the charges. The security forces arrested this 20-year-old Azerbaijani student in her father's house on November 29th, 2022.

Farnaz Alizadeh Glanbar, a resident of Tabriz, was released on bail until the end of proceedings. On December 19th, Farnaz Alizadeh was arrested and transferred to Tabriz prison. There is no information about the possible charges against her.

On December 18th, 2022, **Maliheh Baniasad**, an Azerbaijani mountaineer and coach, was arrested by the security forces at Ayqar Mountaineering Club in Tabriz. No information has been published about her whereabouts and her possible charges.

On December 14th, **Vahideh Khanpour** was arrested by security forces in Tabriz. Earlier, during the recent protests, Mrs. Khanpour was threatened several times by the security forces over the phone. There is no information on her whereabouts and the charges leveled against her.

On December 5th, **Khadijeh Jahani** was arrested and transferred to Miandoab prison in West Azerbaijan by security forces. There is no information about her latest situation.

Amirreza Bagheri, a 16-year-old child, was arrested by security forces in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan. Amirreza Bagheri will be tried for insulting Iran's supreme leader Khamenei. He has been accused of "insulting the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran" and "propaganda against the regime". He is a child, so his family and Azerbaijan human rights defenders are concerned about his situation and possible accusations.

Zahra Eskandari was arrested for publishing protest posts on Instagram on October 21st. First, she was summoned to the FATA (Cyber Police) of Tabriz city and then arrested.

Relatives of her have informed us that since the arrest of Zahra Eskandari, she has had short contact with her family and only told them of the arrest. The family's appeal to the security and judicial institutions to issue a temporary release order remains unanswered. There is no information about her latest situation.

At Urmia University, students gathered on campus chanted slogans against the Islamic Republic and supported nationwide protests. There is still no information about the possible detainees in these two universities. However, **Elaheh Bayramian**, **Zahra Azimi**, and **Masoumeh Maleki** were arrested at these protests in East Azerbaijan. **Elaheh Bayramian** was released after posting a bail until the end of proceedings.

Elaheh Bayramian is an environmentalist. Her film, directed by Pedram Habib Piran, related to the impacts of drying of Lake Urmia, received an award at the International Queen Palm Festival in California. On September 26th 2022, she was released on bail.

On October 2nd, Elahe Bayramian was beaten and arrested by the security forces in Urmia, West Azerbaijan Province. She is an artist. Elahe Bayramian has played a role in the short film "Museum" about the consequences of the drying up of Lake Urmia.

On November 13th 2022, **Fatemeh Ahmadi**, a teacher of Azerbaijani music, was arrested in

Tabriz and taken to an unknown place.

On October 29th, **Sara Hoseinzadeh** was arrested in Urmia. There is no further information about her latest condition.

Homeyra Torabi has been released temporarily on bail until the end of the proceedings. Her charges are "Propaganda against the Islamic system," and "insulting the leadership," by publishing an article in a WhatsApp group. Homeyra Torabi was severely beaten before her daughter's eyes during her arrest. Homeyra Torabi was arrested on October 9th 2022 in Ahar, East Azerbaijan.

On October 29, 2022, **Iliya Jafarpenah** was arrested by security agents in Urmia. No information has been published about her accusation and whereabouts.

On October 8th, protestor **Saba Pashazadeh**, a student in Urmia, was arrested by security forces in Urmia, West Azerbaijan. No further information is available.

On September 26th, **Zahra Karimi** was arrested in Urmia. There is no information about her status. Zahra Karimi is a blogger.

On October 12th 2022, **Amir Mohammad Bighaleh**, 16 years old, was arrested in front of his school in Astara. There is no further information.

On October 17th 2022, **Aysan Adibeig** and **Sedigheh Adibeig** were released on bail until the end of the proceeding process from Tabriz prison. They were arrested in Tabriz on October 12. They were beaten brutally by security forces during their arrest.

On September 22nd 2022, **Sevda Arashkia**, A yoga trainer and blogger from Tabriz was arrested.

C WOMEN SUMMONED BY THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS

In recent days, the Intelligence officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have been summoning, calling, and threatening to arrest and torture the activists and their relatives in various cities in Azerbaijan. The intelligence ministry uses this technique to prevent Azerbaijani people from participating in demonstrations or to avoid reporting human rights violations by victims or witnesses.

Name	City	Photo
Parisa Sohrabi	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	
Fatemeh (Pinar) Shaker	West Azerbaijan- Khoy	
Maryam Heydari	Zanjan	


Parisa Sohrabi was summoned to FATA (Cyber Police) in Tabriz for posting a tweet on Septem-

ber 24th, and spent the same night in detention. The next day, upon the guard's decision, she was released without bail, probably because the crime had not been established. However, on October 20th, after being summoned by the investigating judge, she was arrested again.

Since her arrest, Parisa Sohrabi has been in the Neswan Wing of Tabriz Central Prison. Parisa's physical condition was not well, and the doctor who treated her in prison acknowledged this. According to Parisa's sister, her health was significantly worrying due to her previous history of brain tumor surgery and the need for medical and therapeutic care. The continuation of her detention puts her life at serious risk. Despite such problems, her request for release on bail, which was presented to the court by her lawyer, remained unanswered for weeks. Parisa was released from Tabriz Central Prison on December 4th after posting bail until the end of the proceedings.

On November 24, 2022, **Fatemeh (Pinar) Shaker** was summoned to a court in Khoy. Her accusations are "Propaganda against the Republic of Iran", and "Membership in an opposition group". On November 5, **Maryam Heydari** was summoned by the court in Zanjan on a charge of "Propaganda against the system through cyberspace." She has been released on bail.

D WOMAN SUSPENDED FROM WORKING

Name	City	Gender	The Charge	Sentenced to	Photo
Shamsi Abasalizadeh	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	Female	For attending the ceremony of Aylar Haghi	Suspended from working at the university	

Shamsi Abbasalizadeh, a professor at the Tabriz University of Medical Sciences, was suspended from working at the university due to attending the funeral ceremony of Aylar Haghi, one of the victims of the recent protests.

E SENTENCED AZERBAIJANI WOMAN LAWYER

Increasing security pressure and judicial condemnation of Azerbaijani lawyers


Since peaceful demonstrations began in September 2022 against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the security pressures against Azerbaijani lawyers have increased unprecedentedly as they were accepted to represent the arrestees and provide legal support. During this period, at least four lawyers have been sentenced to prison. Additionally, several lawyers had their licenses revoked.

Due to the mentioned circumstances, **Omid Rahmani Sedigh Azar** resigned from his position as the police prosecutor of the East Azerbaijan Bar Association. Sina Yousefi, the head of the hu-

man rights commission of the East Azerbaijan Bar Association, who was previously arrested by the security forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, stated on his Twitter page that the reason for this resignation was the pressure of the security institutions on the lawyers to revoke the license of more than 50 of the association's members.


The names of more than 50 lawyers were sent to the East Azerbaijan Center by the intelligence ministry to be dealt with administratively, such as by suspending or revoking their licenses. However, Omid Rahmani Sedigh Azar did not comply with these unjust orders and was forced to resign.

Sina Yousefi was also informed about many referrals to the legal offices. He said, "The volume of referrals to my colleagues' offices and the lawyers' association was too high to be accepted. Due to the high number of detainees from the protests, the Human Rights Commission decided to form a Defense Committee. However, the government attacked me for performing this professional duty and adhering to the lawyer's oath. I have faced another charge of forming an illegal group."

Name	City	Gender	Charges	Sentenced to	Photo
Negin Kiani	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	Female	Propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran	One year in prison and ban on leaving country	








Another Azerbaijani lawyer, **Negin Kiani**, was sentenced on December 20th to one year in prison and a ban on leaving the country. Negin Kiani was arrested and transferred to Tabriz Central Prison for accepting to represent the detainees from the protests. On November 13, this East Azerbaijan Lawyers Association member was released after posting bail until the end of proceedings. Currently, her case is proceeding.

F SENTENCED WOMEN PROTESTORS

Name	City	The Charge	Sentenced to	Photo
Farzaneh Ghareh Hasanlou	Karaj	Killing a Basiji force member	Twenty-five years to imprisonment	

Safiyeh Gharebaghi	Zanjan	Propaganda against the regime through cyberspace, supporting protests and spreading lies	Has been acquitted by appeal court	
Soheila Zalbeigi	Qazvin	Unknown	One month in prison	
Sarina Gharabati	West Azerbaijan-Urmia	Propaganda against the Islamic Republic system, Gathering and collusion with the intention of disrupting national security	Five years in prison	
Nayyer Sanandajian Hokmabadi	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	Assembly and collusion against the country's internal security through participation in an illegal assembly	Two years of imprisonment and two years of ban on leaving the country	
Faezeh Javadi	West Azerbaijan-Urmia	Propaganda against the Islamic Republic system, gathering and collusion with the intention of disrupting national security	Five years in prison	

Sonia Soutoudeh	West Azerbaijan-Urmia	Propaganda against the Islamic Republic system, and Gathering and collusion with the intention of disrupting national security	Three years in prison	
Leyli Pourbaba	East Azerbaijan	Unknown	Three years in prison and 44 lashes	
Samaneh Babazadeh	East Azerbaijan	Unkown	One hundred million rials fine, banned for two years from leaving the country and confiscation of her mobile phone	
Nazli Saeedi	East Azerbaijan	On charges of propagating against the regime, and An additional punishment	30 million Tomans in fine, and 2 years ban on leaving country	
Samaneh Dadgar	Zanjan-Abhar	Community and collusion to act against the security of the country	5 years of suspended imprisonment and 74 lashes, and 30 million rials fine instead of 4 months of imprisonment	
Maedeh Olad Gharagoz	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	Unknown	Two years ban on leaving country 16 months imprisonment 8 million rials fine	

Niloufar Shak- eri	Karaj	Unknown	Six years imprison- ment Two years ban on leaving country	
Mahdiyeh (Melika) Seyedforoghi	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	Unknown	Three years imprison- ment	
Mina Alikhani	Zanjan	Disturbance of public order	6 months imprison- ment and 74 lashes	
Shiva Kianfar	East Azerbaijan	Unknown	3 years imprisonment	
Parisa Jeddi	Ardabil- Germi	Propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran	Sentenced to 3 months in prison; She finally has been ac- quitted by the appeal court	
Kobra Jabbari	Zanjan	Propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran	She has been acquit- ted	
Mahleghe Babazadeh	East Azerbaijan- Tabriz	Unknown	She was sentenced to ban on leaving the country for two years and a fine but then she has been acquitted by appeal court	

Fatemeh Mohammadi	East Azerbaijan-Tabriz	Unknown	She was sentenced to ban on leaving the country for two years and a fine but then she has been acquitted by appeal court	
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Farzaneh Ghareh Hasanlou was sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment in Ahvaz without having any contact with anyone by the Karaj Revolutionary Court.

Farzaneh Ghareh Hassanlou, 46 years old and an expert in laboratory science, has also been sentenced to long-term imprisonment. She and her husband are accused of killing a Basiji force member in Hadis Najafi's 40th-day ceremony. The Revolutionary Court has issued these inhumane and cruel verdicts against this detained couple without any evidence or documents.

Safiyeh Gharebaghi has been acquitted by the second branch of the Zanjan Revolutionary Court headed by Mr. Heydari of the charge of propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran system with examples of publishing content related to the recent protests on her personal Instagram page.

On October 1st, the intelligence agents of Zanjan arrested Safiyeh Gharebaghi, a journalist and women's rights activist, and transferred her to an unknown location. On October 8th, Safiyeh Gharebaghi was released on bail until the end of the proceedings. In the preliminary stage of the proceedings, her accusation was called "propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Besides this, as a women's rights activist, she has a history of being summoned and arrested, including in 2016, by the Zanjan Intelligence Department on charges such as "propaganda against the regime through cyberspace", "supporting protests" and "spreading lies". Arrested and a charge was issued against her for reasons such as protesting gender inequalities and violation of women's rights, protesting the laws passed regarding women and the lack of freedom in the country, protesting discrimination and injustice, supporting political prisoners, supporting those arrested on the International Mother Language Day.

On November 18th, **Soheila Zalbeigi** was released from prison. Soheila Zalbeigi was arrested in Qazvin city one day before by the IRGC forces and transferred to prison on November 17th. Before her arrest, Soheila Zalbeigi, the director of Omid Exceptional School in Takestan city, was summoned to the IRGC intelligence department at 11:00 a.m. in November.

Based on the telephone summons of the IRGC intelligence, this manager entered the IRGC

intelligence headquarters. However, she was arrested, blindfolded, and taken to the prosecutor's office. It is necessary to emphasize that this arrest was unfortunately accompanied by violence, and one of the agents shamelessly and forcefully put this teacher into the car. Also, the vehicle and mobile phone of this director of Takestan city have been confiscated. She was sentenced to one month in prison. No information has been published about her charges. Soheila Zalbeigi is one of the successful managers in Qazvin province and a member of the board of directors of the teachers union in Qazvin province.

Nayyer Sanandajian Hokmabadi was sentenced to 2 years in prison. Nayyer Sanandajian Hokmabadi was sentenced to 2 years of imprisonment and two years of ban on leaving the country by the 32nd branch of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan province. These citizens were arrested by the security forces in Tabriz on October 7th and then transferred to the prison of this city. Branch 32 of the Court of Appeal of East Azerbaijan Province has sentenced the accused based on the charge of "Assembly and collusion against the country's internal security through participation in an illegal assembly."

Sarina Gharabati, Faezeh Javadi, Shiva Kianfar, and Sonia Soutoudeh, who were arrested during the recent protests, were sentenced to prison by the third branch of the Revolutionary Court of Urmia, West Azerbaijan, presided over by Judge Najafzadeh.

According to the reports of local news sources, the charges against these people in the proceedings were "propaganda against the Islamic Republic" and "gathering and collusion to disrupt national security." The judge in the case informed the accused individuals about the verdict orally. According to the verdict, Sarina Gharabati and Faezeh Javadi have been sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment, Shiva Kianfar has been sentenced to 4 years of prison, and Sonia Sutoudeh has been sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment.

Ms. Sarina Gharabati was an Azerbaijani athlete in pistol shooting and a former member of the national shooting team of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Her situation is worrying her family and Azerbaijani human rights activists. This is because considering the short period for the arrest and processing of the case of these people, as well as the transfer of their case from the 2nd branch of the Revolutionary Court to the 3rd branch, which has a history of issuing heavy sentences. Likely the case was not properly nor legally processed and injunctive sentences were issued without reasonable due process.

Leyli Pourbaba, one of the recently arrested, has been sentenced to 3 years in prison and 44 lashes. It has not published detailed information about the charge's title, the issuing court branch, and the possible order issued.

Earlier, Ms. Pourbaba was arrested on November 2nd 2023, after being summoned to the FATA (cyber police) of East Azerbaijan.

Samaneh Babazadeh, an Azerbaijani artist and actress, was sentenced to one hundred million rials for a fine and banned for two years from leaving the country. Also, her mobile phone was confiscated. Samaneh Babazadeh was arrested and transferred to the central prison of Tabriz after being summoned by the Tabriz court on November 13th. On November 22nd, Samaneh Babazadeh was released from the central prison of Tabriz. She was arrested on November 13th after being summoned by Tabriz court.

Nazli Saeedi, a medical student and one of the detainees of the recent protests, was sentenced to 15 months in prison on charges of assembly and collusion, 100 million rials in fine on charges of propagating against the regime, and an additional punishment of 2 years ban on leaving the country by Branch 1 of Tabriz General and Revolutionary Court.

Nazli Saeedi was arrested by the security forces on October 24th 2022, and was released on November 19th after posting bail until the end of the proceedings.

Samaneh Dadgar, one of those arrested during the first days of the latest protests, was sentenced to 5 years of suspended imprisonment and 74 lashes, and 30 million rials instead of 4 months of imprisonment by the Revolutionary Court and Branch 103 of 2 Abhar Criminal Court on a charge of “community and collusion to act against the security of the country.”

On September 22nd, the security agents arrested many citizens in response to the gatherings of citizens in Hidej city. Samaneh Dadgar was detained and brutally beaten by police officers in their home in Zanjan-Heidaj. She has been transferred to Abhar's prison. After posting bail, Ms. Samaneh Dadgar was released on Sunday, October 9th.

Maedeh Olad Gharagoz was sentenced to 16 months imprisonment, an 80 million rials fine, two years ban from leaving the country, and confiscation of a mobile phone by the first branch of the Revolutionary Court of Tabriz city.

Maedeh Olad Gharagoz was arrested during the recent protests and was temporarily released from Tabriz Central Prison by posting bail until the end of the proceedings. Maedeh Olad Gharagoz's sister wrote on Twitter: “Today, we were informed that a court hearing will be held for my sister on December 5!”

Maedeh Olad Gharagoz, arrested on September 28th on the charge of propagating against the regime, was released two weeks after posting a bail of 100 million rials. On November 15th, the authorities called her again and summoned her to the prosecutor's office, after which she was arrested again. Maedeh's family said, “We do not know the reasons for the re-arrest of our daughter because a court has not been held or issued a verdict.” Maedeh Old Gharagoz has been transferred to the central Tabriz prison. She is prevented from fundamental prisoner rights such as telephone calls.

Niloufar Shakeri, an Azerbaijani girl from Zanjan and a resident of Karaj, was sentenced to 6 years in prison and two years ban on leaving the country. Her first trial was held without a right to have a lawyer to defend herself.

According to Niloufar Shakeri's mother: "After about five months that my daughter has been in prison, we are still undecided, neither a verdict has been announced, nor can we get a lawyer."

Niloufar Shakeri was subjected to the most severe torture during her detention, so she was taken to the hospital on December 24th, 2022, due to internal bleeding. The video shared on the internet showed her transfer from prison to the hospital because of internal bleeding. The security forces transferred Ms. Niloufar Shakeri to jail again, regardless of her severe physical condition, without undergoing treatment. There is deep concern about her health because torture caused her internal bleeding. Her life is in danger.

Niloufar Shakeri was arrested on October 11th, 2022 in her home in Karaj-Gohardasht.

Mahdijeh (Melika) Seyedforoghi A 24-year-old- has been detained in Tabriz Central Prison for more than a hundred days. Mahdijeh (Melika) Seyedforoghi's mental and physical condition is reported to be critical in Tabriz Central Prison.

Mahdijeh Seyedforoghi has been sentenced to 3 years of imprisonment. There is no information about the accusations brought against her. Her family has been under severe pressure to avoid publishing the news of their daughter's detention.

She was denied the right to have a lawyer and was sentenced to 3 years in prison based on his confessions under torture. Melika's Instagram page has been closed by FATA (Cyber Police).

On February 1st 2023, **Mina Alikhani**, a resident of Zanjan, was arrested and sent to Safarabad prison in Zanjan to serve the sentence of 6 months imprisonment and 74 lashes on charge of "Disturbance of public order."

Parisa Jeddi, an Azerbaijani civil rights and women's rights activist living in Germe (Moghan) city, was acquitted by the 14th branch of the Court of Appeal of Ardabil province from the charge of "propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran".

Previously, Parisa Jeddi was sentenced to 3 months in prison by the first branch of the General Court of Germe (Moghan) on the charge of "propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

On October 19th, 2021, the intelligence office of Germe city summoned Ms. Jeddi with a phone call. According to Ms. Jeddi's brother, the relevant court used the posts on Parisa's Instagram page, including the republishing of international soccer player Ali Karimi's story about Lake Urmia, as the basis for issuing this verdict.

Kobra Jabbari, an Azerbaijani teacher, was acquitted by the 2nd branch of the Zanjan General and Revolutionary Court of the charge of "propaganda against the Islamic Republic of Iran."

In the decree issued by the said branch headed by Judge Heydari, it is stated: "... according to the constitution, the right to criticize and criticize some actions and laws and even judicial opinions is the inalienable right of natural and legal persons. Only sending a few stories critical of the performance of some organs, propagandistic activities against the system as a whole, or in favor of groups that are not considered oppositional organizations, the accused has stated the purpose of his actions is to improve the economic, cultural and political situation and advance the country's interests, the accused, due to his social personality, who is the secretary of education, has provided many services to the society in educating the children of this country... the defendant's actions are not to the extent that the security of the country is called into question or distorted by his actions. According to the court, based on all the aspects and investigations that document the constitution's thirty-seventh article and Articles four and one hundred and forty-one of the Criminal Procedure Law, the verdict is issued to acquit the accused.

On November 14th, Kobra Jabbari was summoned to the 2nd branch of public investigation and revolution in Zanjan, and after explaining the charges, she was released on bail until the end of the proceedings.

Fatemeh Mohammadi, head of the Parla Azerbaijani dance group, and **Mahlegha Babazadeh**, Parla Azerbaijani dance group member and music student, were acquitted by the appeal court. They were sentenced to a ban from leaving the country for two years and a fine. There is no further information about their accusations. On November 15th, Fatemeh Mohammadi, and Mahlegha Babazadeh, were both arrested in Tabriz, East Azerbaijan.

8 RECOMMENDATION

Due to the lack of proper access of human rights defenders inside Iran to the Internet and the prevailing security environment, collecting accurate information about the situation and the arrested protesters' names is challenging. Nevertheless, what we have collected has caused aggravation of concerns about the detainees' health conditions. We are sure that the victims are too many, but we have included only the cases we could confirm.

Women's and children's rights status has always been dramatic. The situation has worsened since September, when the demonstrations started, and women's and children's rights statuses have been devastating. Besides this, minority women and children are more vulnerable. A repressive regime is more merciless with minorities, women, and children.

According to human rights defenders, Iran is accused of using live ammunition and heavy weaponry to crush protests by minorities located in minority-majority provinces. Based on the footage published on social media, the Iranian police and intelligence agents as well as the IRGC and Basij

forces used live ammunition and directly shot at the protestors and civilian bystanders.

Tara Sepehri Far, senior Iran researcher at Human Rights Watch said “The government’s immense brutality has brought the struggles of long-neglected communities like Zahedan to the center of protests.”¹⁹ “The newly established United Nations fact-finding mission on Iran should pay special attention to security force atrocities in minority-dominant areas like Zahedan, the predominantly Baluchi capital of Sistan and Baluchistan province.”¹⁹ Also, other minority-populated areas such as Kurdistan, Azerbaijan, and Khuzestan, which are Baluchi, Kurds, Turks, and Arab majorities living there, need more human rights attention. According to the published videos, in Kermanshah province, the repressive military forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran used green gas, which is said to be “hexachloroethane” gas (which contains “anti-nerve” elements), against protesting people instead of regular tear gas.²⁰

Security forces, police, government, repressive forces, riot forces, and Basij forces severely suppressed minorities, women, and children to stifle protests alongside the latest protests, most victims from among minorities. Also, known victims were minorities, women, and children. Mahsa Amini (Women - Kurd), Hadis Najafi (Women - Azerbaijani Turk), Kian Pirfalak (A child - Lor), Sarina Esmailzadeh (A child - Azerbaijani Turk).

Contact Information:
etekyazi@gmail.com

¹⁹<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/12/22/iran-bloody-friday-crackdown-years-deadliest>

²⁰<https://farsi.alarabiya.net>