

Drastic Rise in Violence Against Women in Iran

**State-sponsored, institutionalized violence directed against
Iranian women by the ruling theocracy**



*A study by the Women's Committee
of the National Council of Resistance of Iran*

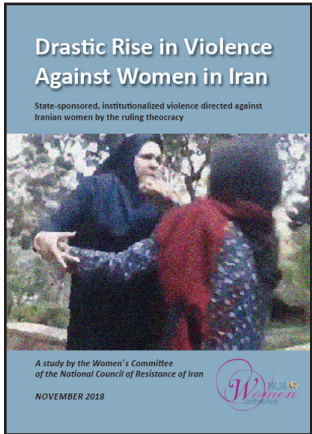
NOVEMBER 2018



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DRASTIC RISE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN IRAN

AS THE WORLD IS OBSERVING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, THE NCRI WOMEN'S COMMITTEE TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO OFFER A GLANCE ON THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CASES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST IRANIAN WOMEN UNDER THE MULLAHS' REGIME SINCE LAST NOVEMBER 25.



OFFICIAL ADMISSIONS ON THE SCALE OF VAW

One of the most significant developments attesting to the drastic rise of violence against women last year in Iran was official acknowledgements in this regard.

In a meeting in September, it was revealed that, "Iran has one of the [highest statistics](#) on violence against women."¹

"Unfortunately, the last national survey on violence against women was conducted 14 years ago... Since then, no national research on violence against women has been carried out, or if done, it has been kept confidential and not publicly announced," a VAW expert added.²

"Today we see that violence (against women) has become institutionalized," a member of the mullahs' parliament confessed.³

"Currently domestic [violence against women is pervasive](#) in society but few people pay attention to it," she told another event.⁴

"Domestic violence is not clearly seen in society because unfortunately a woman who is subjected to such violence, rarely speaks out about it. This is why many women suffer from it. Clearly, we see many forms of violence against women in society," she added without providing any statistics. Shedding light on the injustice institutionalized in the regime's penal code against women, she admitted, "If a woman makes a little mistake, it would cause great problems for her, subjecting her to violence. However, when a man makes a huge mistake there is no violence against him."⁵

In another occasion, it was announced that after road accidents and street fights, the main reason for women referring to the Coroner's Office in Tehran is being battered by their husbands. On the average, 52 women refer to the Coroner's Office every day.⁶ This is only "less than 35 per cent" of the cases of domestic violence which are reported.⁷

According to the official statistics provided by the regime, [66 per cent](#) of Iranian women experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Although the figure is double the world average of one-in-every-three women (or 33%), it must be considered a blatant mitigation of the reality.⁸

Another MP has revealed, "Many women who are subjected to violence do not file complaints for different reasons. Nevertheless, they lose their living skills due to the violence inflicted on them, to the extent that sometimes they lose their sanity and commit suicide... Women and mothers who are subjected to violence or are constantly brutalized cannot manage their families, properly."⁹

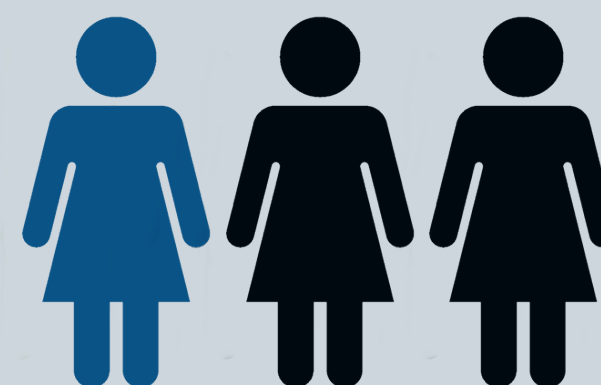
Admissions by regime officials and experts:

“Iran has one of the highest statistics on violence against women.”

“Domestic violence against women is pervasive in society.”

“66% of Iranian women experience domestic violence in their lifetime.”

Although the figure is double the world average of one-in-every-three women (or 33%), it must be considered a blatant mitigation of the reality.



2 IN 3
Iranian women experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime.

“PROVISION OF SECURITY FOR WOMEN” STALLED BY JUDICIARY

And yet the bill to prevent violence against women has not been adopted by the mullahs' parliament since being proposed eight years ago.

In a meeting discussing the bill, Parvaneh Salahshouri, head of the women's faction in the mullahs' parliament, revealed, “The bill initially called, ‘Elimination of Violence Against Women’, was first renamed as ‘Provision of Security for Women.’ For two and a half years, the bill has been supposed to come back to the parliament, but it has got stuck in a labyrinth incomparable to any other bill or plan.”¹⁰

Salahshouri added, “When we entered the parliament, they said the bill had already been under examination for five years. The presidential directorate on Women and Family Affairs made some changes in it and sent it back to the government to be sent to the parliament. The bill, however, was redirected to the Judiciary because it contained incriminating items which had to be examined by the Judiciary.”

Tayyebah Siavoshi, a member of the women's faction at the mullahs' parliament ([Majlis](#)), said the bill had been stalled in the hands of the Judiciary. She said, “We have been waiting for this bill, every day since our term began in the Majlis... We have repeatedly urged the Judiciary to pass the bill over to the Majlis but it has been almost three years and the bill on Provision of Security for Women has not yet reached us.”

Siavoshi also explained how the Judiciary has impaired the bill, “[Khoda'ian, deputy to the Chief Justice](#), has said that 41 of the 92 articles of the bill have been omitted. The reason for such omissions was that they ran parallel to the articles of the Islamic Punishment Code and the Penal Prosecution Procedure... The Judiciary has examined the bill but despite our inquiries for more than four months when their examination was completed, the bill is still not in our hands.”¹¹ Regarding the lengthy examination of the bill, Ashraf Gerami-zadegan, a legal advisor to the presidential directorate on Women and Family Affairs, said, “Some groups believe that the bill would weaken the authority of men in the family, and some consider the bill's structure to be contrary to their views.”¹²

On August 24, 2017, legal deputy to the Judiciary, Zabihollah Khoda'ian, expressed his opposition to the adoption of the VAW bill. “The bill on combatting violence against women (in Iran) has been drafted from a merely sexual perspective.” He justified his view by saying that 70 out of 100 articles of the bill are “criminalizing”, “setting prison sentences for even the slightest tensions between couples.”

On another occasion, Fatemeh Zolghadr, member of the women's faction in the mullahs' parliament, revealed that the bill is neither complete nor comprehensive. “Currently, there is no legal definition in the bill for some forms of violence, and there is no punishment for them, either.”¹³ Drafting and tabling the bill on Provision of Security for Women against violence, began under Ahmadi Nejad's government with the cooperation of the Judiciary. It was drafted to contain 92 articles and five principles. But the parliamentary Committee on Bills found some faults with the bill, the deliberations on the bill were brought to halt, and ultimately it was pushed out of the agenda with the conclusion of Ahmadi Nejad's tenure.

According to article 2 of the bill, all women over 18 years of age and married women over 13, can enjoy the support provided by this bill.

ROOTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN IRAN

Sociologists point to economic difficulties, [lack of support structures](#), and poor education as the main reasons for such escalation. Most experts, however, consider living conditions, class differences, and discriminations as the more important factors contributing to domestic violence against women. Currently social and economic pressures, unemployment, high prices, and lack of strong social support have prepared the grounds for the emergence of various kinds of [violence against women](#). In lower classes and low-income families, in particular, women are more vulnerable.¹⁴

Kamel Delpasand, sociologist and a researcher in social sciences, pointed out that the statistics on domestic violence against women “is not reported, registered or published in the media, so there is nowhere you can find the exact data.” According to Delpasand, “violence against wives ranks second only after violence against children” in Iran.¹⁵

Ahmad Bokharaii, director of social damages group affiliated with the Sociology Association, said, “Regardless of the existing cultural backgrounds promoting male domination (under the mullahs' rule), the legal, judicial and disciplinary structures are such that men allow themselves to imply force and commit violence against women.”¹⁶

“Between March 2017 and March 2018, there were 300 media reports on murders within the family and the statistics show that more than 80 percent of the victims were women,” Bokharaii added.

Another sociology expert said male domination and its related prejudices have grown in the younger generation, and based on the culture promoted (under the mullahs' misogynous rule), men consider domestic violence against women as a right they are entitled to.¹⁷



VAW bill
STALLED
by the Judiciary
for 8 YEARS



VAW bill has been
RENAMED,
and
41 of its
92 articles
have been
REMOVED



VAW bill is said
to WEAKEN
men's
AUTHORITY
in the family

VAW FACTS AND FIGURES

Domestic violence against women in [Iran](#) saw a 20% rise last Iranian year spanning from March 2017 to March 2018.

[Reza Jafari](#), head of the Social Emergencies, told the media in May 2018 that domestic violence against women had seen a 20% growth over the past year. Over 16,000 instances of violence against children were registered in the first half of the year, alone, and around 1,750 cases of violence against wives were registered in the first nine months of the year.¹⁸

In an earlier interview, Jafari said, “14,599 cases of violence against spouses and 16,000 cases of violence against children have been reported in six months,” but did not specify the exact time frame and the year.¹⁹

It could be concluded that he is talking about the same time period, but the difference in numbers is an example of lack of transparency and inaccurate data announced by the regime on violence against women.

A 2015 study on violence against pregnant women showed that the prevalence of domestic violence against pregnant women was 48%.²⁰

Studies on [violence against women](#) at the workplace, show that 72.6% of nurses faced violence in their job. It has also been noted that violence at the workplace is more likely to occur to women between 22 and 35.²¹

Chief Coroner Shojaii announced, “Most of the medical examinations done at the Coroner’s Office are related to family quarrels and most

of those who come for medical examination are women. In 2016, the number of such clients was 77,280 (including 74,180 women and 3,100 men) and in 2017, this number reached 81,729 (including 77,059 women and 4,670 men).²²

Shojaii also stated that violence against women had [almost doubled](#) in one year. He said the number of women who filed complaints against domestic violence had risen 5.8% in 2017 compared to 3.2% increase in the preceding year.

Last year, Ali Hadizadegan, head of the Coroner’s Office of Mashhad (Iran’s second largest city), had acknowledged that most [victims of domestic violence](#) are women between 20 and 35 years of age.²³

Hadizadegan also pointed out that women generally do not complain about the violence they experience and the government’s data does not accurately reflect the reality.

According to the statistics published by the National Welfare Organization, 27% of women in the 19-49 age range have been battered by their husbands during the past year. The Coroner’s Office has reported that 90 percent of domestic violence is committed against woman.



Violence against women almost **DOUBLED** last year.

Most victims of domestic violence are women between **20 and 35** years of age.

90% of domestic violence is committed against woman.

EARLY MARRIAGES are violence against women

43,000 girls **under 15** and **180,000** girls **under 18** got married in Iran from March 2017 to March 2018

Most early marriages end up in **DIVORCE**.

There are **24,000 WIDOWS** **under 18** and **15,000** widows **under 15**.

EARLY MARRIAGES, ONE OF THE MOST COMMON FORMS OF VAW



In a gathering in Tabriz, Massoumeh Aghapour, a Majlis deputy, said early marriages are examples of violence against women. “They are in fact, the worst form of oppression of girls and future women of Iran,” she added. “Looking at official statistics,” Aghapour said, “we realize that this is the great pain of our present society which needs practical and logical solutions to remove this ugly image of society.”

Zahra Ayatollahi, head of the Social-Cultural Council of Women and Family at the Supreme Cultural Revolutionary Council, said, “Based on the statistics of the National Statistics Center, last year (March 2016-March 2017) there were 36,422 marriages of girls under 15 years of age.”²⁴

A similar figure was confirmed for the following year by Parvaneh Salahshouri who said some 37,000 girl children under 15 years of age got married from March 2017 to March 2018.²⁵

In another instance, the statistics and monitoring director of the Social and Cultural Council of Women and Family said some 43,000 girls under 15 were married in the Persian year 1396, from March 2017 to March 2018.²⁶

In another acknowledgment, Batool Salimi Manesh, a social researcher, said, “[180,000 early marriages](#) take place in Iran every year.” She added, “The largest number of registered marriages of 10-14 girl children was in 2014 which amounted to 40,229. The number of girl children under 10 who have gotten married

was 220 in 2011; 187 in 2012; 201 in 2013; 176 in 2014; and 179 in 2015. These figures are probably higher because of unregistered marriages.”²⁷

Ali Baghdar Delgosha, advisor in youths’ affairs to the Governor of Razavi Khorasan Province, said the average marriage age for girl children in Zaweh village is 11. Zaweh is located in Razavi Khorasan Province in northeastern Iran.²⁸

Amir Taghizadeh, cultural and youth affairs deputy in the General Department of Youths and Sports in East Azerbaijan, northwestern Iran, said 3,944 girls between 10 and 14 years old got married in 2015. Most of these marriages took place in villages and rural areas. One year later, in 2016, this number reached 4,165 marriages. The marriage age for girls in Zainub village is under 10.²⁹

There are families who force girls as young as 9 or 10 years old to get married with old men just to obtain some money to provide for the rest of the family’s needs.³⁰

The [Razavi Khorasan Province](#) (eastern Iran) has the largest number of early marriages, while [East Azerbaijan Province](#) (northwestern Iran) ranks second only next to Khorasan.³¹ They are followed by the provinces of [Sistan and Baluchistan](#), [West Azerbaijan](#), and [Kermanshah](#) which are national record holders with around 4,000 marriages of girl children under 15 per year.³²

According to the official statistics, there are some 24,000 widows under 18 years of age in Iran, and most of the early marriages end up in divorce.³³

Shahrbanou Imami, member of Tehran’s City Council and former member of the mullahs’ parliament, told an IWD gathering at Tehran’s Melli University that there were 15,000 young widows under 15 years of age in Iran.³⁴

The regime’s parliament has not passed the bill proposing to eliminate violence against women. The only effort made was an attempt to urgently pass a bill banning marriage of girls under 13 years of age, which has not been decided upon, yet.

Institutionalized in the clerical regime’s laws, [early marriages of girls under 18](#) are also considered [obvious examples of child abuse](#) by international standards.

The legal age of marriage for girls in Iran is 13 years old, and girls can be given to [marriage even in younger age](#) if the father and a judge decide that they are mature enough.

More than 13,000 cases of child abuse were registered and reported to the Social Emergency Room of [West Azerbaijan Province](#) (northwestern Iran), during the Persian year 1396 (March 2017- March 2018). This indicates the horrifying dimensions of this social ailment on the national scale.³⁵

Mehrdad Motalebi, a sociologist acting as deputy for Social Affairs in the Welfare Organization of West Azerbaijan Province, said the high statistics include only the reported cases.

Some sociologists believe that the surge in child abuse is due to economic problems and compulsory early marriages.

IMPOSING THE COMPULSORY VEIL

The state-sponsored and the most common form of VAW



Numerous video clips disseminated last year showed brutality of the so-called guidance patrols in dealing with women defying the compulsory veil. According to a parliamentary report, 70% of Iranian women observe the veil only through coercion and harsh restrictions.

A report published in summer by the research center of the mullahs' parliament (Majlis) indicated that some 70% of Iranian women do not believe in the compulsory dress-code, namely the head-to-toe black veil or [Chador](#), imposed by the regime. They are among the "improperly veiled" and protest the compulsory veil.

The report confirms that Iranian women observe the veil only through coercion and harsh restrictions.³⁶

As the center puts it, more than 85% of the "improperly veiled" do not believe in the value of Chador and do not approve of government intervention to control this issue. The research indicated that young educated women residing in large cities and metropolises, have the strongest resistance against [the compulsory veil](#).³⁷

This is why the regime has a hard time imposing the veil on Iranian women. They spend exorbitant sums of money to pay for [26 government and state agencies](#) as well as 301 associations are in charge of enforcing the veil and monitoring Iranian women's observance of the compulsory veiling.³⁸

This year saw some of the most horrific scenes of the regime's suppressive forces confronting women on the streets.

[Maryam Shariatmadari](#), 32, a student of Computer Sciences at Tehran's Amir Kabir University, was pushed off a telecoms box by a State Security Force officer and hurt in the knee on February 23, 2018, when she was protesting the compulsory veiling by removing her shawl. On April 18, 2018, at least four Guidance Patrols

attacked four young women in a park, beating and shoving them around for improper veiling. One of the young women suffered from a heart condition and went unconscious as a result of the beatings. The video clip on this incident rapidly went viral and raised public outrage in Iran and around the world.

The outcry, however, fell on deaf ears and the regime went on to praise the female patrol guard involved in the case. Hossein Rahimi, Tehran's Chief of Police, declared, "We powerfully defend our agents."³⁹

In a meeting with the parliamentary committee on National Security and Foreign Policy on April 30, 2018, Commander of the State Security Force, Hossein Ashtari, announced that the officer involved had been granted a plaque and honored at the SSF command headquarters only two days after the incident.

Finally in November, the Prosecutor of the Armed Forces' Judiciary Organization turned down the complaint filed by two of the victims, saying their evidence was not sufficient.⁴⁰

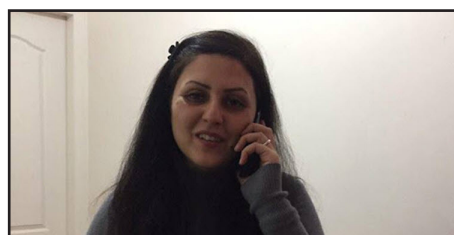
There have been a number of other [video clips](#) last year [substantiating](#) the [violent treatment of women](#) on the [streets](#) by the [guidance patrols](#).

The SSF Commander, Hossein Ashtari, announced in September 2016 that, "Some 2000 women who wear improper clothing are arrested every day in Tehran and some other provinces."⁴¹ This amounts to 730,000 arrests in a year, a minimized figure both due to lack of transparency on the part of the regime, and the increase in suppression of women in 2017 and 2018 compared to 2016.

An MP confessed that there are long-lasting psychological consequences for women who are dealt with by the Guidance Patrol. In a gathering on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Parvaneh Salahshouri admitted, "The anxiety and fear caused by the Guidance Patrol affects some young women and girls for long years, leaving undesirable psychological consequences. As an MP, I have seen cases when the girl's cover was not that bad but such unprincipled approaches have caused psychological problems for the person which has led to other ailments."⁴²

The Women's Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran condemns any form of attack, brutalizing or hurting the women who oppose the [compulsory veil](#). The Women's Committee has also called for the immediate release of all women who have been arrested and imprisoned for improper veiling or removing their veil, and for protesting and opposing the [compulsory veil](#) and considers imprisonment verdicts for protesters against the compulsory veil as unjust.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS



Women political prisoners are routinely brutalized by prison guards and authorities.⁴³ Here is a glance over the most significant cases over the past year:

On January 24, 2018, the resistant prisoners [Golrokh Iraee](#) and [Atena Daemi](#) were taken by force for interrogation to the IRGC Ward 2A in Evin and in reaction to their strong resistance, they were [brutalized and transferred](#) unlawfully to the notorious Qarchak Prison in Varamin.

In protest to this illegal measure and brutal treatment the two prisoners went on hunger strike. [Golrokh Iraee](#) continued her hunger strike for 81 days to the [verge of death](#), until they managed to receive their demand and [return to the Women's Ward](#) of Evin Prison.

At least [11 women dervishes](#) were brutally arrested and taken to Varamin's Qarchak Prison (a.k.a. Shahr-e Ray) on February 20, 2018. They were taken to the Quarantine Ward 3. A [pregnant woman](#), Leili Nayeab Zadeh, was among [those arrested](#).

Amnesty International issued a statement on March 29, 2018, stating that security forces resorted to beatings, firearm use, water cannons and tear gas to disperse the crowd. The women were taken to Vozara detention center where they were subjected to intrusive body searches by female officers, intimidating interrogations, insults and yelling.

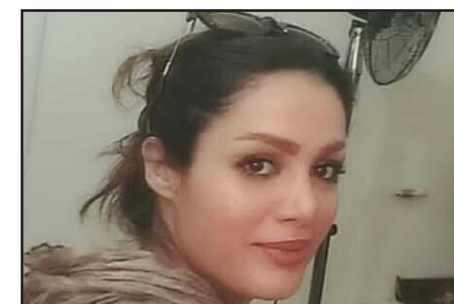
Shokoufeh Yadollahi suffered a broken skull during arrest and lost her sense of smell.

Sepideh Moradi suffered injuries in the hand, elbow and fingers while being arrested during the Sufi protest in Tehran. Her legs got burnt due to security forces' use of tear gas.

The 11 Sufi women were also beaten up on August 2, 2018, on the grounds that one of them made a telephone call to her young daughter. Security agents disconnected the call made by [Elham Ahmadi](#), provoking her protest, later joined by other Sufi women. They were subsequently attacked and beaten up by the prison's security force.

Also [dozens of women](#) were [brutalized](#) and [violently arrested](#)

Counter clockwise from left, rights activists Golrokh Iraee and Atena Daemi, woman dervishes Shokoufeh Yadollahi, Faezeh Abdipour, and Sepideh Moradi, and student activists Leila Hosseinzadeh, Parisa Rafii, Sepideh Farhan, Touran Mehraban, Soha Mortezaei, and Neda Ahmadi, were among those arrested and brutalized in detention.



by the regime's repressive forces and anti-riot units. They experienced harsh treatment at the hands of security forces and were tortured under interrogation. Touran Mehraban, has been beaten up and tortured in jail after being arrested on December 31, 2017.

At least [59 women](#) were violently arrested on the [International Women's Day](#) on March 8, when Iranian women took to the streets of Tehran after 39 years and staged a protest outside the Labor Ministry. At least 14 of the arrested women were transferred to Qarchak Prison in Varamin where they were deprived of access to water and hygienic material.

Another shocking incident was the arrest and torture in prison of a 15-year-old girl in Ahvaz, capital of Khuzestan Province, in southwestern Iran.

Ma'edeh Shabani Nejad, 15, was arrested on January 25, 2018, by the IRGC Intelligence at her uncle's house in Ahvaz and taken to the IRGC's detention center. An exemplary student, Ma'edeh wrote nationalistic and epical poetry in Arabic and published them in social media. She was held at least for four months in Sepidar Prison where she suffered GI hemorrhage and stomach ache during 75 days of interrogation.

The intensifying crackdown on women activists has been considered as a crisis point in the situation of human rights in Iran and an attempt on the part of the ruling regime to silence any voice of dissent.

41 WOMEN AND GIRLS RAPED

by assailants tied to local big wigs

An increasing number of rape accounts kept mushrooming in different parts of Iran, including the rapes and murders of 6 and 7-year-old girl children. However, the rapes of 41 women and girls in [Iranshahr](#), in southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, was the most horrific case stirring controversy across the country.

The whistleblower was Mowlavi Tayyeb Mollazehi, the Friday prayer leader of Sunnis in Iranshahr, who revealed the news on the [rapes of 41 women and girls](#) between 18 and 30 years of age in Iranshahr in his Friday prayer sermon on June 15, 2018.

The assaults had been carried out by a gang of four men, reportedly linked to the city's wealthy and influential families. Mowlavi Tayyeb Mollazehi told the state-run ISNA and ILNA news agencies, that the arrested member of the gang was "a wealthy magnate."

Tayyeb Siavoshi, a member of the mullahs' parliament, declared that her independent inquiries from "unofficial sources," confirmed that the arrested person in this case "enjoyed power and financial base."⁴⁴

The families of the victims told Mowlavi Tayyeb Mollazehi that "the assailants were tied to the (paramilitary) Bassij." According to another account, the father of one of the suspects is one of the senior commanders of the powerful [Revolutionary Guard Corps](#).

Fatemeh Fazeli, general director of Women and Family Affairs at the Governorate of Sistan-and-Baluchistan Province, was interviewed by the local news channel, Neday-e Zahedan (Voice of Zahedan). "Quite a few young women and girls

of Iranshahr have been victims of this ominous incident but only a few of them have dared to speak about this agonizing experience," Fazeli pointed out.

However, Iranian officials understandably tried to minimize the issue and sweep the entire dossier under the rug. They launched a well-coordinated choir to conceal the truth and help the criminals evade justice.

Mohammad Jafar Montazeri, the regime's Prosecutor-General, declared on June 18, 2018, "We must deny this story the way it has been presented."

Referring to Mowlavi Tayyeb, he said, "The Judiciary will deal decisively with the individual who has taken advantage of a public forum by misinforming the public by fake news without verifying its validity, and thereby jeopardizing the honor of some families." He emphasized, "This incident is certainly not true in the scale it has been raised."

Harrowing case of DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST GIRL CHILDREN

The discovery of three children including two girls who had been tortured by their father and stepmother outraged the public in the city of Mahshahr, in southwestern Iran.

Fatemeh, 12, Omolbanin, 8, and their five-year-old brother, Ali Akbar were tortured physically and psychologically by an ax, a hammer, hot iron rods, etc.⁴⁵

The horrendous case of domestic violence against these children was discovered by neighbors in the town of Taleghan, near Mahshahr, in Khuzestan Province.

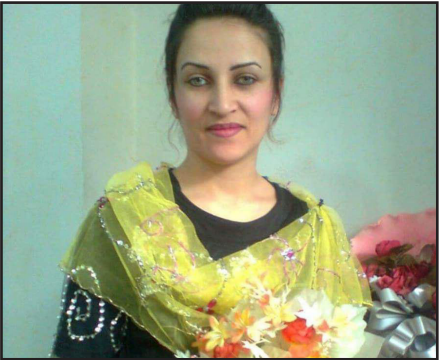
Eyewitnesses who discovered the tortured children said they had been kept in the back yard in hot weather. The children's mouths were glued to prevent them from screaming.

Fatemeh, 12, was discovered tied to iron bars and not able to move. Her stepmother broke her elbow by an ax and her teeth using a hammer. Various parts of the children's bodies had been burnt.



Left, Atena Aslani, 7, raped and murdered in East Azerbaijan Province. Right, Fatemeh and Omolbanin, and their brother were found in Mahshahr, Khuzestan, tortured by stepmother.

CONCLUSION



Sharareh Almassi, above, the 85th woman executed during Rouhani's tenure. Below, an unnamed woman showing scars of flogging.



What was outlined above, was just a glimpse into the clerical regime’s record this year with regards to violence against women. A few topics were picked out of dozens and explained by a few facts or figures. Our website contains more detailed information including on nurses who experience battery in hospitals, victims of acid attacks, honor killings, flogging sentences handed down to civil activists, physical attacks on women peddlers on the streets, violent arrests of pregnant women, death sentences handed down to women who defend themselves against domestic violence, and finally, the 85 women who have been executed under the mullahs’ president Rouhani. Not only the clerical regime’s Constitution and laws institutionalize [violence against women](#) and sanction the cruel punishments of flogging, stoning and blinding, but the regime systematically and formally undertakes violent measures against Iranian women day and night, throughout the country. Iran is the only country in the world where women have been executed or tortured to death by the thousands for their opposition. [In the 1980s, tens of thousands of PMOI women were massacred by the regime](#) for exercising their freedom of speech and thought. They included teenage girls, pregnant women and elderly mothers. [In 1988, thousands of women were among the 30,000 political prisoners massacred](#) and buried in unmarked mass graves across the country. The state-sponsored nature of violence against women in Iran calls for action by the international community to hold the Iranian regime accountable for violating its obligations to uphold women’s rights and alleviate the suffering of Iranian women.

ENDNOTES

1 VAW expert Parastoo Sarmadi, the state-run ILNA news agency, September 18, 2018

2 Ibid. Earlier in 2014, the presidential deputy on women and family affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi had revealed that 32 volumes of books containing the outcome of a national research done on domestic violence against women “have been lost” and no copies of them can be found “in the Ministry of Interior or the directorate for women and family affairs.”

3 Parvaneh Salahshouri, member of the mullahs’ parliament, the state-run ILNA news agency, September 18, 2018

4 Parvaneh Salahshouri, head of women’s faction in the mullahs’ parliament, the state-run IRNA news agency, November 25, 2017

5 Ibid.

6 Tehran’s forensic officials, January 2017

7 According to Mohammad Ali Esfanani, spokesman of the legal and judicial committee in the parliament, in December 2014, “out of 180 complaints, 128 are not interested in following up their complaint.”

8 Fatemeh Ghassempour, head of the Research Center on Women and Family in Tehran, the state-run ISNA news agency, November 16, 2018

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**STATE-SPONSORED AND INSTITUTIONALIZED
VIOLENCE AGAINST IRANIAN WOMEN**

DRASTIC RISE IN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN IRAN

State-sponsored, institutionalized violence directed against Iranian women
by the ruling theocracy

A study by the Women's Committee
of the National Council of Resistance of Iran

November 2018

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