



**OCTOBER  
MARKED  
BY EXECUTION OF  
A WOMAN IN  
IRAN**

**OCTOBER 2018**

**MONTHLY REPORT**  
**Women's Committee**  
of the National Council of Resistance of Iran



## October marked by execution of a woman in Iran

Just a week before the International Day against the Death Penalty, the Iranian regime executed a woman who was a juvenile at the time of the alleged crime.

Zeinab Sekaanvand, 24, was hanged on October 2, 2018, in the Central Prison of Urmia along with four other prisoners despite a number of appeals from UN Special Rapporteurs and the UN Secretary-General since her conviction in October 2014.

This was the [84<sup>th</sup> woman executed](#) during Rouhani's tenure.

Daughter of an impoverished family, Zeinab Sekaanvand had been forced into marriage at the age of 15.

Ms. Sekaanvand had claimed that before she murdered her husband, she had been physically and verbally abused by him for month. She had asked for divorce but he did not agree.

She had also referred to the police station multiple times, seeking help and support in the face of her husband's violence but officials did not heed her pleas or carry out any investigation as measure to help the young woman.



Ms. Sekaanvand was also brutalized for 20 days at the police station, after confessing to the murder.

Later, however, she told the judge that her husband's brother, who had raped her several times, had actually committed the murder.

Amnesty International censured the execution, indicating that Zeinab Sekaanvand did not have a fair trial.

"She was arrested when she was just 17 years old and sentenced to death for the murder of her husband, whom she married at the age of 15. Not only was she a child at the time of the crime, she was subjected to a grossly unfair legal process," said Amnesty International's Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Philip Luther, in a [statement](#) appealing for the life of Zeinab Sekaanvand.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, also condemned the execution of Zeinab Sekaanvand, accused of killing her husband in 2012 at the age of 17.

Michelle Bachelet added in her [statement](#) that "her claims that she was coerced into confessing to the killing, and that she had been a victim of domestic violence, were reportedly not adequately examined during her trial."

"The sheer injustice in the case of Zeinab Sekaanvand Lokran is deeply distressing," High Commissioner [Bachelet](#) said. "The serious question marks over her conviction appear not to have been adequately addressed before she was executed. The bottom line is that she was a juvenile at the

time the offence was committed and international law clearly prohibits the execution of juvenile offenders.”

“As a State party to both the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Iran has an obligation to abide by their provisions and to end the use of the death penalty against juvenile offenders,” Michelle Bachelet added.

She stressed that the UN Human Rights Office opposes the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, as no judiciary in any part of the world is mistake-free.

The Iranian regime is the world’s top record holder in execution of women while it has the highest per capita executions in the world.

The death penalty is a tool for terrorizing the society and a significant instrument for preserving the regime. Both factions benefit from such endless savagery to prolong the regime’s rule.

### More women expecting their deaths

More women are lingering in the [Central Prison of Urmia](#) on death-row. Their names were previously announced as:

1. Chenar Salehi,
2. Yasna Sadeqi,
3. Arasteh Ranjbar,
4. Nazdar Vatankhah,
5. Tahmineh Danesh,
6. Farideh Hassanpour,
7. Shelir Khosravi,
8. Somayeh Ebrahimzadeh.

Another 11 death-row women prisoners are held under [inhuman conditions in Qarchak Prison](#) of Varamin.

The names of the eleven women and duration of their detention in jail follows:

1. Azam Maleki, 8 years, charged with murder of her brother-in-law and nephew-in-law;
2. Narjes Tabaii, 3 years, charged with murder of her husband’s second wife;
3. Fereshteh Shirazi, 5 years, charged with murder of mother-in-law (sister of Assadollah Lajevardi, the infamous warden known as the Butcher of Evin Prison);
4. Tahereh Noori, 12 years, charged with murder of her husband;
5. Roya Amirian, 14 years, charged with murder of a man harassing her on the street;
6. Mahtab Shafii, 3 years, charged with murder of her husband and mother-in-law;
7. Mahboubeh Rasouli, 7 years, charged with murder of mother-in-law;
8. Mahnaz Agahi, 7 years, charged with murder of her husband;

9. Soghra Eftekhari, 10 years, charged with murder during a conflict;
10. Eshrat Nazari, 6 years, charged with murder of her husband;
11. Samira Sabziyan.

From the list of charges, one can deduce that most of these eleven women were victims of violence and harassment. Most likely, they committed these murders in self-defense. However, under the laws of the mullahs' regime, the woman and the victim who has defended herself must face trials and retribution.

While the international community has adopted the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul, May 11, 2011) to protect women victims of violence, and while most countries endeavor to assist women victims of violence and protect them against the death penalty, the misogynous clerical regime in Iran does not protect the rights of women who are victims of violence, because misogyny has been institutionalized in the country's laws and the Iranian regime is moving in the opposite direction.

The fate of the eleven women imprisoned on death row in Qarchak calls for action by international human rights organizations to investigate the injustices of the Iranian Judiciary and inhuman prison conditions. It also highlights the need to abolish the death penalty in Iran.

### **Inhuman conditions in Qarchak**

The [Qarchak](#) prison in [Varamin](#), located in eastern Tehran, used to be a chicken farm. It is now a prison for women who are convicted of ordinary offences.

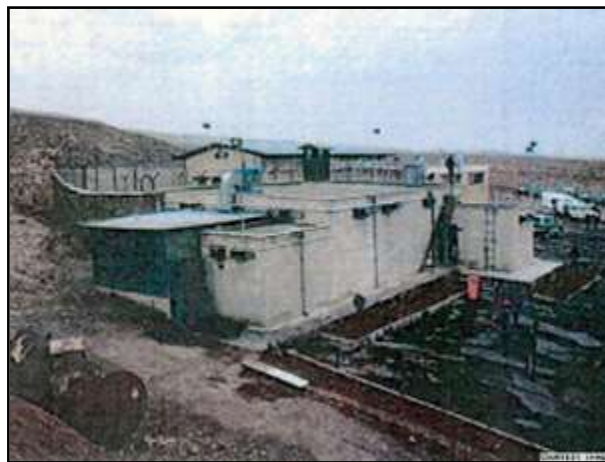
In terms of health facilities and prisoners' access to appropriate treatment, Qarchak Prison is one of the worst prisons in Iran. There is no potable water in this prison.

About 1,000 women have been detained in Qarchak in the October, alone.

As a new routine, those arrested on political grounds are first transferred to this prison until their sentences are finalized.

Women transferred to Qarchak Prison after being arrested during protests have reported about the conditions of the prison. They said the prison authorities and guards sexually abuse the imprisoned women arrested for ordinary crimes. They are abused so severely that some lose their mental balance.

In some cases, political prisoners are exiled to this prison as punishment. The last case was that of [Atena Daemi and Golrokh Iraee](#). The [prison authorities were forced to back down](#) and return them to Evin Prison after they went on a [hunger strike](#) for 81 days.

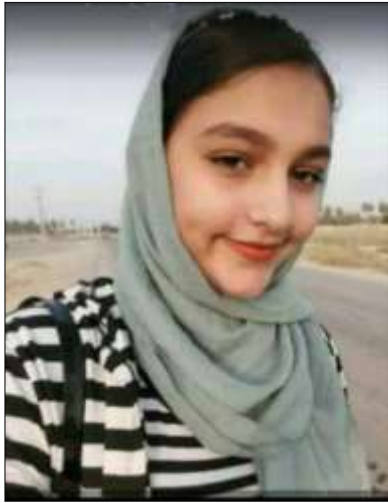


## Suicide of women

At least 14 young women and girls in Iran have committed suicide and ended their lives in October. At least six teenage girls, 13-17, were among the victims.

It must be noted that the names and figures announced publicly by the state-run media constitute only a fraction of the actual statistics, as the regime fails to be transparent on the number of suicides and its registry systems are not reliable.

According to the Statistical Yearbook of the Iranian Coroner's Office, published in September 2018, at least [1365 Iranian women](#) committed suicide in 2017, i.e. an average of 4 women per day.



The teenage girl who committed suicide in Khormoj, Bushehr

Based on the information compiled in the month of October, poverty and depression led a 16-year-old girl in one of the villages of [Khormoj](#), in [Bushehr Province](#), to commit suicide on October 7, 2018, by setting herself on fire as a result of which she lost her life.

On October 15, 2018, Raziye Rubina, 46 from [Marivan](#) in Kurdistan Province, committed suicide by hanging herself.

On October 19, 2018, a 16-year-old girl named Sholeh Sobhani from [Ravansar](#) in [Kermanshah Province](#), ended her life through self-immolation.

A 16-year-old girl from Sanandaj, in [Kurdistan Province](#), ended her life by jumping off the Shalman Bridge on October 20, 2018.

On October 21, 2018, a French-language female student from the University of Tehran committed suicide by throwing herself off the multiple-storey building of the municipality's parking.

Also on October 21, a 13-year-old girl in Tehran hanged herself at home after her family left.

Fatemeh Ghaderi, a middle-aged woman residing in Marivan, Kurdistan Province, committed suicide by self-immolation on October 24, 2018, due to family problems and differences with her husband.

On the same day, Shima Dastan, a young woman from [Saqqez](#), in Kurdistan Province, who was the mother of a young child, hanged and killed herself because of poverty.

On Friday, October 26, 2018, Maryam Jangali, 37, committed suicide in [Piranshahr](#), West Azerbaijan Province. She threw herself off the fourth floor of an apartment building due to the problems she had with her husband.

On Saturday, October 27, 2018, a Kurdish woman by the name of Shermin Ahmadi, from [Oshnavieh](#), set herself on fire and lost her life.

Monday night, October 29, 2018, a 17-year-old girl in [Fouman](#), Gilan Province in the north, committed suicide and died.

Other reports during the past month also indicated three more suicides without mentioning exact dates: A 14-year-old girl from Jamshidabad, [Abadan Province](#), hanged herself. Two female students in Tehran also committed suicide.

## Arrests and jail sentences

The Iranian regime continued the arrest of civil and human rights activists.

[Hakimeh Ahmadi](#), a civil rights activist and mother of two, was arrested by security forces in [Marand](#), in East Azerbaijan Province, on October 18, 2018. She has been physically and verbally tortured, suffering broken fingers and ribs.

Another civil rights activist Nassim Sadeqi was arrested in [Tabriz](#), also in East Azerbaijan, on October 21, 2018, and transferred to Tabriz Prison on October 29, 2018. In a call to her children, Ms. Sadeqi said she had been severely brutalized.

[Lamya Hemadi](#), 20 and seven months pregnant, was arrested at home in Susangerd, Khuzestan Province, in early October.

Two other women Zoudiyeh Afrawi, 55, and Ghaisyeh Afrawi, 60, residents of Albou Afri village in Susangerd, have also been apprehended along with their sons in the wave arrests made by the regime to crack down on the populace after the attack on its armed forces parade in September.

Baha'i women, [Elham Salmanzadeh](#) and Niloufar Hakimi, were also arrested in Karaj and Shiraz, respectively.

The Iranian Judiciary also handed out jail sentences for those arrested during public protests and uprisings.

[Neda Yousefi](#) received one year in prison and 74 lashes. [Yasaman Ariani](#), [Saba Kord Afshari](#), and Azar Heydari received one year each. [Niloufar Homafar and Mojdeh Rajabi](#) were sentenced to six months in prison.



Lamya Hemadi

## Women participated in 154 protests

Nevertheless, women continued to play their active role in 154 protests of various sectors all across the country.

Women participated in at least 20 protests by students, 23 protests by defrauded clients of credit institutes and companies, 96 protests by teachers, 6 protests by nurses and hospital staff, and 9 protests by other sectors, to demand their rights.