



**FAILURE  
TO FUND  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
IN CITIES AND SCHOOLS  
TAKES TOLL ON  
HUMAN LIVES**

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**Women's Committee**  
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## Failure to fund infrastructure in cities and schools takes toll on human lives

While the Iranian regime spends billions of dollars on the wars in Syria and Yemen, and on missile tests and terrorist activities, little budget is allocated to the country's infrastructure and education while accidents essentially caused by a lack of funds continue to take toll in Iranian schools and universities and on the country's roads.

December saw the deaths of four little girl children in a preschool in Zahedan and of eight including three female students in the Azad University's School of Sciences and Research, while 14 working women suffered injuries in a road accident, to name a few out of many.

### Four preschoolers die in fire

[Three pre-school and elementary girl students](#) lost their lives in a fire on Tuesday, December 18, 2018, at a non-governmental girls' school in Osveh Hassaneh in [Zahedan](#), capital of Sistan and Baluchestan Province in southeastern Iran.

The Department of Education in Sistan and Baluchestan Province announced the names of the three pre-school girl students as Mona Khosroparast, Maryam Nokandi, and Saba Arabi. (The state-run Tasnim news agency – December 18, 2018)

Two days later, a fourth girl, Yekta Mirshekar, who had suffered 70 percent burns, died at the hospital on Thursday, December 20, 2018.



The accident was due to the use of non-standard oil heaters in the school.

This was not the first time that children and girl children became victims of deficiencies in the infrastructure of schools due to lack of funds.

The Iranian state-run media reported on October 8, 2018, of the death of a young Kurdish girl, Donya Veisi, at her school in Sanandaj after the wall crumbled on her.

In September 2016, the wall of a school in Chabahar collapsed and a seven-year-old girl died under the rubbles.

On December 5, 2012, thirty-seven girl students suffered from varying degrees of burns from 10 to 60 percent in a [fire incident at an elementary school](#) in the Shinabad village of [Piranshahr](#). Two of the students, Siran Yeganeh and Saria Rasoulzadeh, died due to severe burns and the rest of the girls



have been suffering in the past seven years since the incident.

The government does not provide any support for the treatment of these girls and their families have failed to receive any amount of compensation for the girls' treatment.

The ceiling of a classroom in Sirik Village collapsed on April 13, 2017. A girl student was injured in the eye and taken to hospital.

Sirik village is located in Hormozgan Province in southern Iran. School buildings in villages and districts of this province are not safe and cause a lot of damage to students every year. (The state-run ISNA news agency – April 15, 2017)

Girl children of Qeshm<sup>1</sup> study in tents because the classrooms are very old and badly worn out. (The state-run IRNA news agency – February 1, 2017)

Fire at a girls' school in the city of Meshginshahr, northwest Iran, led to the complete destruction of the roof. The school was shut down and 300 students remained out of school on the eve of the new academic year. (The state-run Mehr news agency– September 8, 2017)



### University students die in bus crash on campus

In another incident in Tehran, at the School of Sciences and Research of Azad University, three female students were among the victims of [a fatal bus crash](#). Another nine female students were among those injured.

At noon on Tuesday, December 25, 2018, a bus belonging to the Sciences and Research School of the Azad University of Tehran, was taking students from schools located on heights down to the university's entrance, when it veered off a steep, mountainous road, rolling over for some 90 meters and crashing into a concrete wall of the water system.

Ten passengers, including eight students were killed and 28 students injured.

Three female students were among those killed: Negar Babol-Hava'ej, Sara Abolfat'hi Rad, and Niloufar Radmehr.

The press announced the names of at least nine female students among those injured and hospitalized.



<sup>1</sup> Comprised of 59 villages and towns, Qeshm is an island in the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, 2.5 times the size of Bahrain.

The School of Sciences and Research has been built on the slope of a mountain and its various buildings are distributed on this slope. There is a long distance from the buildings located on the heights to the entrance, so many students ride the university's buses.

The bus that crashed is said to have had a brake failure.

According to the students, the university owns an aged bus fleet. Each of its old buses carry between 60 to 70 students which is way above the permitted capacity. Although the spiral road has a sharp slope, there are no guard rails or road maintenance and the drivers do not observe the safety measures. (The state-run ISNA news agency – December 26, 2018)

There have been quite a few incidents in the past where students have lost their lives in bus accidents.

Elite student Sara Ayineh was among the 27 victims of a horrendous bus crash in Sanandaj on July 11, 2018. She studied biology at a high school for talented students and had passed the exam for the first stage of [Science Olympiad](#) for the 2017-2018 academic year.

On September 1, 2017, a [bus carrying the elite girl students](#) of Hormozgan Province overturned on the road to a student camping site in Shiraz. Twelve girl children were killed in this accident and 34 were wounded and hurt.

In another [accident in January 2018](#), a girls' school bus overturned in the north of Fars Province, where five girl students were injured.

### Working women get injured in bus accident

In a [road accident](#) on December 26, 2018, fourteen female gardeners of the Citrus Gardens in Mazandaran were injured on their way back home when their minibus overturned on the Galugah – Nokandeh road.

These gardeners go to work every day from different villages with minibuses or other vehicles and return to their villages at sunset.

Given the increase in men's wages in the agricultural and gardening sector, employers tend to employ female workers in recent years because their wages are only a third of men's. Women workers work as daily wage earners, and they do not receive any benefits or support in case of accidents at work or on the road. (The official IRNA news agency - December 27, 2018)



Last November, [23 women workers were injured in an accident](#) in northern Iran when the minibus carrying them overturned into a water canal near the Tabaqdeh village on the fringe of the Islamabad city in Miandorud, Mazandaran Province.

On April 15, 2018, a Nissan vehicle was overturned on the Lak Pol area of the Qaemshahr – Babol road. Seven women workers were injured and transferred to hospital. (The state-run [Salamatnews.com](#) - April 15, 2018)

## Removing non-standard heaters takes 7-8 years due to lack of funds

[Mohammad Ali Bathaie](#), the Minister of Education made shocking confessions to reporters at a government meeting on December 12, 2018, saying, "Given the credit the government and the Education Ministry have, it is not possible to remove (the non-standard) heaters from schools in seven or eight years." (The state-run Rouydad 24 news agency – December 19, 2018)

The clerical regime's Minister of Education announced in 2017 that 42 percent of Iranian schools do not have a safe heating system. (The state-run Mehr news agency – September 23, 2018)

## Students will no longer tolerate such scenes

The students of Azad University held three days of ceremonies and protests to commemorate their classmates.



On the second day of the protests, one of Azad University students declared, "We have stood up to say that we will no longer tolerate such scenes. It is not fair to see these things and not speak up. We will no longer remain silent... What is the benefit of remaining silent? We will stand to the end..."

Iranian students held a major protest and march around on December 31, 2018, outside the University of Tehran with chants of "death to the dictator" despite heavy presence of security forces and anti-riot units. Students called for resignation of the Azad University officials responsible for the deaths of students in the bus crash and described them as "incompetent."

Iranian students have held at least 300 protests over the past year many of them against shortages of facilities and basic necessities including against low quality food served by the cafeteria in Iranian universities and deficiencies in student dormitories.

In terms of the number of deaths from road traffic accidents, Iran ranks eighth in the world with about 800,000 road accidents per year. 17,000 people died in accidents in 2017. Twenty-two percent of the victims or 3,500 were women. According to the regime officials, at least 43 people are killed daily on Iranian roads.

The corrupt mullahs' regime spends billions on repression at home and export of terror and fundamentalism abroad, while a lot needs to be attended to at schools and universities, on the roads and the infrastructure of cities to prevent accidents that take a toll on human lives.