



The arisen women of Iran
seek to bring down
the regime

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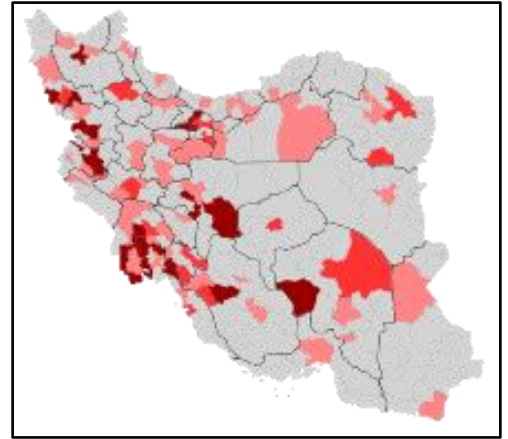
November 2019

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November saw the outbreak of yet another [nationwide uprising](#) in Iran. The fuel price hike triggered angry protests which rapidly spread to 189 cities in just a few days.

An army made up of the hungry, the poor, the unemployed, the oppressed women and youths were waiting for a spark to rise up against the mullahs' regime.

The uprising flared with the tripling of the price of fuel on November 15 and the clerical regime suddenly found itself encircled and caught up in the middle of "a world war." The regime's officials said, "the threat was very serious." People chanted "death to the principle of Velayat-e Faqih," "death to Khamenei," and "death to Rouhani."



Protesters attacked and torched government centers and institutes in charge of plundering the people's wealth. In a few days, billions of tomans of damage were inflicted on the regime's banks and the IRGC-owned chain stores. The mullahs were on the brink of downfall. So, they resorted to brutal crackdown on defenseless people and their protests were turned into a bloodbath on Khamenei's personal order.

The "remarkable" role of women

One of the major features of the uprising in November 2019 was the role of women in leading the protests. Iran's heroines called on people to rise and protest. They led the resistance units. Young heroines infuriated the regime. It was proven that women are the force for change and they are going to defeat the mullahs' religious fascism.



Young women guided the people to join the main scenes of protest. A young protester who had been shot and wounded during the uprising said he had been saved by an 18-year-old woman who drove him away on her motorbike. Another protester from Shiraz said older women made sandwiches for the young men who were fighting in the streets.

Students were quick to join the protests. Tehran University students held a protest on campus on November 18. They planned to join ranks with students of Amir Kabir and Azad universities and march towards Enghelab Square, but security forces surrounded them. After the sunset, plainclothes agents drove ambulances inside the university and hauled away students. Later, officials admitted that at least 95 students, including dozens of female students, were arrested during the Iran Uprising.

[Women's extensive role](#) in the uprising forced the state-run media to acknowledge their "remarkable" role. They wrote that in many cities women led teams of 4, 5 or 6 people and encouraged people to join the protests.

A state-run newspaper wrote about "masked women among protesters and popular protests" who "led the gatherings." They also wrote about 30-35 year-old women who were responsible for division of work. "These women wore the same garbs, each had a different role; one filmed the riots, the other stopped the cars, and another one incited the people to join the ranks of riots."

The State Security Force Commander of Alborz Province admitted to the arrest of [three women](#) in Mohammadshahr of Karaj, and the SSF commander of Kerman said [five women](#) were among those arrested in Sirjan.

The more women improve their role in leading the uprising, the longer the uprising will endure and the more powerful it will become. The Iran Uprising cannot be extinguished and it will march forward to end the ruling religious tyranny.

[The unprecedented number of slain women](#)

A big difference of this uprising with the previous ones was the sacrifice made by women of different ages. So far, the names of [24 women](#) who gave their lives during the Iran protests have been verified:

1. [Halimeh Samiri](#) – Abadan, Khuzestan: She was killed under torture, then her lifeless body was abandoned outside her father's house.



2. [Mahnaz Mehdizadeh Nader](#) – Shahriar, Tehran: Mahnaz was shot three times by the State Security Force's special unit on November 16.



3. A [13-year-old girl - Behbahan](#), Khuzestan: She was shot in the head from behind.
4. A female high school student – Shiraz, Fars: She was shot by a helicopter
5. A female student from Saqqez - Sanandaj, Kurdistan: An eyewitness said she was hit by a tear gas canister which struck her in the abdomen.
6. Maryam Nouri - Robat Karim, Tehran
7. Marzieh Abbaszadeh – Robat Karim, Tehran
8. Nassim Ghorbani – Tehran
9. Parisa Seifi – Kamyaran, Kurdistan
10. An unidentified woman – Rasht, Gilan

11. [Azar Mirzapour Zahabi](#), 48, nurse, woman head of household and mother of four – Karaj, Alborz: On November 16, she was going home after two shifts of work at Shafa Hospital of Karaj, when she was shot in the heart by security forces. Her family were instructed not to talk about her to the press.



12. [Nikta Esfandani](#), 14 – Tehran: Nikta was shot in the head in Tehran's Sattar Khan Avenue. Her family managed to receive her body only after three days.

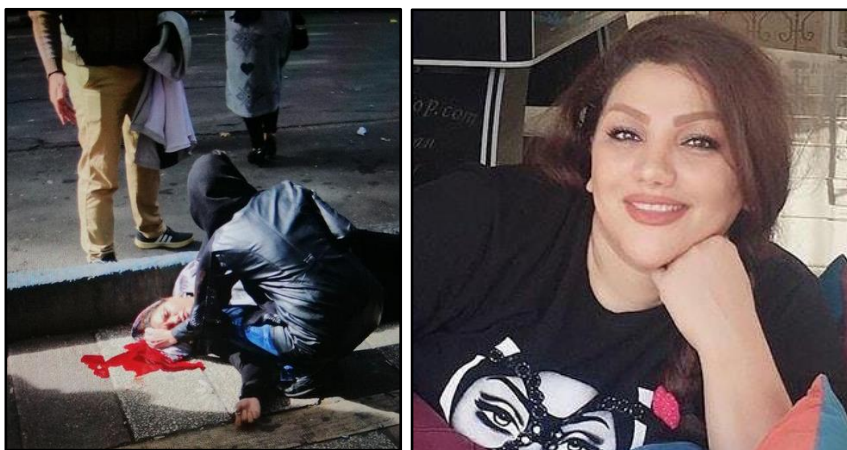


13. [Ameneh Shahbazifard](#), 34 and mother of three – Karaj, Alborz Province: Her sons are 12 and 14 and her daughter is 4. Ameneh was shot by security forces as she was trying to help an injured protester. Her brother paid 4.5 million tomans at Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery to receive her body. He said in her death certificate, the reason for death was written broken skull, while her head and face were intact and the bullet had hit her neck.



14. Shelir Dadvand – Bukan, Kurdistan
 15. Ziba Khoshgvar – Sanandaj, Kurdistan
 16. Mrs. Etghi – Mahshahr, Bushehr
 17. [A woman](#) – Mahshahr, Bushehr

18. Golnaz Samsami, pregnant and mother of a 7-year-old boy – Shahriar, Tehran: A sniper shot her in the head when she had stopped on Vali-e Asr Ave. to help a young man who had been shot and injured.



19. Sepideh Hassani – Naghadeh, West Azerbaijan: She was a student who was shot to death by security forces in Tehran during Iran protests.



20. Mina Sheikhi, 59 and mother of six – Tehran: She was originally from Saqqez, Kurdistan. On November 16, as she was watching the protests from the rooftop, she was shot three times in the chest.



21. Fatemeh Habibi – Bahrestan, Tehran
22. Shabnam Diani – Behbahan, Khuzestan

23. Azadeh Zarbi, 28 – Shahriar, Tehran



24. A woman – Saveh, Central



Mothers of martyrs

Nahid Shirpisheh, mother of Pouya Bakhtiari who was slain on the second day of the protests, had joined the protests with her son and daughter. After her son was shot and killed, she said: “Who will account for the absence of my son? We don’t trust the Iranian Judiciary. They won’t answer for their crime.” She urged international organizations to investigate the death of her son.

In another report from Iran, a family whose daughter has been killed during the protests in Shahriar did not afford to pay the amount of money demanded to receive her body. The family has been threatened not to say anything about the death of their daughter and they are terrified of publicly announcing her name.

Torture of women in prisons

The full dimensions of the regime’s crimes in prisons have not been revealed, yet. Some prisoners who have been released on heavy bail bonds have reported that prisoners are viciously tortured.

A prisoner who has been recently released from the Prison of Marivan, had this to say about female prisoners:

“One day, they brought in a woman who had been detained for having contacts with foreign media. After several days, we no longer heard her screams under torture. They said she had died under torture.”

In Evin Prison, interrogators are cruel in questioning the girls to force them into making false confessions.

Human rights activist Nargess Mohammadi, who is a political prisoner detained in Evin Prison, has sent a letter out of prison, saying, “A 20-year-old girl was transferred to the women’s ward from the Vozara St. detention center. She said the interrogator had caught and pulled her hair during interrogation. The interrogator was foul mouthed and kept using bad language to insult her. Then, he had pulled out his belt and struck it on the table and chair to terrify the young woman and make her say whatever he wants before the camera.”

Call for urgent action to stop the killings and torture

“Peaceful protests against tripling of the price of fuel escalated to new levels after some protesters were killed. The regime’s approach to the protests was more violent on the second day of the protests... In many cities, the protesters reacted to the violent and harsh treatment by the SSF and plainclothes agents by torching the police stations,” reported the Farsi website of Deutsche Welle Radio.

The mullahs’ regime reacted by harsh crackdown. The supreme leader Ali Khamenei weighed in. Dubbing the protesters as “hooligans” and “thugs,” he ordered his forces to open fire on demonstrators. The internet was shut down to prevent leakage of news on the bloody clampdown on the restless populace. Snipers targeted young people in the head and chest. Revolutionary guards opened fire on them at point blank range, and others struck them with the ax.

The identities of more than 350 protesters killed in the streets have been verified so far. The death toll presently stands at 1,000 and is rising. At least 4,000 have been injured and 12,000 arrested and detained. Prisons are packed and overflowing, and the regime is using government offices and grade schools to hold the detainees. A large number of teenagers under 18 years of age are among those killed by the regime.

This shocking crackdown against defenseless people in Iran who were protesting 40 years of criminal rule of the corrupt mullahs who have plundered the nation, is one of the most horrific crimes of the 21st century and by any measure amounts to a manifest crime against humanity. But the international community has not reacted, properly.

The United Nations must urgently dispatch a fact-finding mission to Iran to discover the extent of crime against humanity and visit Iranian protesters detained during the uprising. The UN Security Council must set aside all political considerations and declare Iranian regime leaders as criminals committing crimes against humanity and hold them accountable for the slaughter.

Declaration by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

In a [statement](#) issued in Geneva on December 6, 2019, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet expressed alarm at the continuing lack of transparency about casualties and the treatment of thousands of detainees, as well as continuing arrests reported to be taking place across the country.

As for the widespread arrests taking place in 28 of the 31 provinces of Iran, Ms. Bachelet said she is “extremely concerned about their physical treatment, violations of their right to due process, and

the possibility that a significant number of them may be charged with offences that carry the death penalty, in addition to the conditions under which they are held.”

“In such circumstances, with so many reported deaths, it is essential the authorities act with far greater transparency,” Bachelet said. “They must undertake prompt, independent and impartial investigations into all violations that have taken place, including the killing of protesters and reported deaths and ill-treatment in custody. And those responsible must be held accountable. There appear to be multiple violations of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran has ratified and is obliged to uphold.”

“Verified video footage indicates severe violence was used against protesters, including armed members of security forces shooting from the roof of a justice department building in one city, and from helicopters in another,” Bachelet said. “We have also received footage which appears to show security forces shooting unarmed demonstrators from behind while they were running away and shooting others directly in the face and vital organs – in other words shooting to kill. These are clear violations of international norms and standards on the use of force, and serious violations of human rights.”

“Many of the arrested protesters have not had access to a lawyer, meaning due process is not being respected,” Bachelet said. “We also have reports of severe overcrowding and harsh conditions in detention centres, which in some cities include military barracks, sports venues and schools in addition to official detention facilities. There are also reports that individuals who were wounded or otherwise injured during the crackdown are being denied medical treatment in detention.”

“All in all, the picture now emerging from Iran is extremely disturbing,” Bachelet said. “I urge the authorities to immediately release from detention all protestors who have been arbitrarily deprived of their liberty, and to ensure their right to due process, including access to a lawyer of their choosing during the investigative stage. In the event of further protests, I urge the Government to respect Iranians’ right to exercise freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association and, in addition to investigating the violations that have already occurred, to restrict the use of force to the greatest extent possible, as provided for under the relevant international norms and standards.”