



NCRI WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

MAY 2020

MONTHLY REPORT

THOUSANDS OF ROMINAS
IN IRAN
ARE DEFENSELESS VICTIMS
OF THE SAVAGE LAWS
OF THE CLERICAL REGIME

Thousands of Rominas in Iran are defenseless victims of the savage laws of the clerical regime

In the last week of May, the harrowing [murder of Romina Ashrafi](#), 14, by her father enraged the public opinion across Iran and abroad.

The [Women's Committee](#) of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) declared in a [statement](#) that Iran's ruling mullahs are responsible for the murder of this young woman, as their oppressive and medieval policies and laws encourage and promote violence against women and girls, and facilitate such crimes.



Romina Ashrafi was a 14-year-old student in Talesh, northern Iran. She escaped home to get married with the man she loved after his father's opposition. Then she got caught by security forces.

In the court, the judge presiding the case did not heed the young woman's pleas not to be returned to her father. The state-run media revealed that the girl had cried during the court hearing and repeatedly asked the judge not to send her home lest her father would kill her. The merciless criminal occupying the judge's seat, however, ruled based on the clerical regime's inhuman and anti-Islamic laws and decided for Romina to go back to her father, and therefore, sending her to her death.

On the night of May 21, 2020, when Romina was asleep, her father took a sickle and cut her head from the back of her neck.

Romina's mother revealed that after her boyfriend went to their home and asked her father to allow them to get married, her father encouraged Romina to commit suicide and threatened to kill her. It is also said that a couple of days before the murder, Romina's father had consulted a lawyer, making sure that according to the regime's laws he would not be executed for killing his daughter.

Having experienced such threats and sensing her imminent death, the least would have been for the Social Emergencies to give Romina support and take her to a safe shelter. But violence against women, domestic violence and honor killings have not been criminalized by the clerical regime. Nonetheless, they are institutionalized in the mullahs' misogynist laws. As a result, Iranian women do not enjoy any support against all the various forms of brutalities inflicted upon them.

In reaction to [widespread outrage](#) inside Iran and [around the world](#) over the ghastly murder of Romina by her father, the mullahs' president, Hassan Rouhani, in a cabinet meeting called for expedition of "the examination" of the bills against violence. (The official IRNA news agency – May 27, 2020)

Initially called, "[Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)," the bill was stalled by the Iranian Judiciary and Parliament for at least eight years. The Judiciary finally overhauled and renamed the bill as "Securing, Dignifying, and Protecting Women from Violence", rendering it absolutely ineffective. In September 2019, the Judiciary passed the bill to Rouhani's government, but since then, the government has not taken any action to pass it to the parliament for adoption.

Furthermore, according to Article 1041 of the clerical regime's Civil Code, the legal age of marriage for [girls](#) is 13, but fathers are permitted to force their daughters into marriage at a younger age if a judge verifies that the girl is mature enough.

In December 2018, the bill proposing to increase the age of marriage from 13 to 16 was turned down by the all-male Legal and Judicial Committee of the mullahs' parliament. A similar bill had

been proposed to the parliament in 2000 which was vetoed by the Guardians Council as being against Islam.

Clerical regime's laws facilitate violence against women

Instead of creating protective mechanisms, [the Iranian regime's laws](#) promote violence against women. The Punishment Law has four chapters which contain 37 articles dealing with the most personal sexual issues. Using a repulsive language, these articles prescribe fierce punishments such as stoning, execution and flogging for sexual offenses. (Articles 224 to 261 of the Islamic Punishment Law, adopted in April 2013)

Moreover, articles 637 and 638 of the State Punishment Book also focus on sexual offenses punishable by flogging.

The State Punishment Book is a supplement to the Islamic Punishment Law. It was ratified in June 1996 and was amended in December 2017.

The responsibility of the regime's officials in honor killings becomes evident where the law institutionalizes extra-judicial executions by family members.

Article 630 of the State Punishment Book stipulates that a woman can be instantly murdered if her husband finds her while having sexual relation with another man.

Article 630: Whenever a man finds his wife during adultery with another man and is sure of his wife's consent in doing so, he can instantly kill both of them.

Also Article 301 of the Punishment Law states that retribution for the murderer, i.e. execution, is applicable only if the murderer is not the father or paternal grandfather of the victim. (The Islamic Punishment Law adopted in April 2013)

It must be noted that the adoption of such laws as well as unfair trials come into play after a [plethora of miseries and misfortunes](#) the mullahs' regime has imposed on the people of Iran for more than 40 years.

Rampant poverty, inadequate education, limited access to information, and promotion of a misogynous culture by all media, text books, radio and television, and even movies, coupled with the common practice of violence in the streets and the scenes of public flogging and execution to create an atmosphere of terror and repression and fend off popular uprisings, lead to circumstances which [legitimize](#) honor killings and make murderers out of fathers and brothers.

Token examples of an colossal tragedy

Although honor killings are not compiled and registered as official statistics, but the token examples occasionally published in the local and national press are horrifying. Following is a partial list:



Hajareh Hossein-bor



DonyaMiri

Date and source	Victim	Additional information	Place of murder	Murderer's relation to the victim	Method of killing	Notes	Fate of the murderer
Kurdistan media, July 3, 2013	Donya Miri, 20		Kermanshah, capital of Kermanshah Province	Father	She suffered brain hemorrhage and died after being brutalized by her father in a quarrel over continuing her education.	Donya had been locked up at home by her father for one week for insisting to continue her education.	
The state-run Asr-e Dena, December 16, 2019	Zeinab D., 14		Abadeh village near the city of Boyer Ahmad, Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Province	Brother	Zeinab's brother was hitting her by a stick when she smashed head on into a wall and subsequently died.	Zeinab was being harassed by a strange man for some time. She complained about this to her brother but her brother killed her upon their uncles' incitement.	
The state-run daily Khorasan newspaper, February 3, 2020	Sima, 21		West Tehran	Father	Strangled by her father		The father was released from jail after two months

Date and source	Victim	Additional information	Place of murder	Murderer's relation to the victim	Method of killing	Notes	Fate of the murderer
The state-run Didarnews.com, May 18, 2020	Fereshteh Nejati, 18		Marivan, Kurdistan Province	Father	She was beheaded for befriending a boy in the neighborhood	Two days before her death, Fereshteh visited her mother who was hospitalized in a mental hospital where she asked the authorities to give her a place to stay in the hospital otherwise she would be killed by her father.	
The state-run Didarnews.com, May 18, 2020	Sarina Ghafouri, 25	Mother of a girl, 5, and a folkloric dress maker	Sanandaj, Kurdistan Province	Brother	She was battered to death	Her brother did not like her Instagram account where she advertised for her work and had many followers. He was infuriated when Sarina informed him of her decision to marry again	He was exonerated
The state-run Didarnews.com, May 18, 2020	Hojan, 16		Divandareh, Kurdistan Province	Father		She went into coma when her father was punching and kicking her. She died after three months in coma	She was battered for having told a man that she liked him
The state-run Didarnews.com, May 18, 2020	Zaferan Mohammadi		Marivan, Kurdistan Province	Father	She was strangled by her father who took her lifeless body to a city square	She was planning a second marriage and had visited the man's home.	

Date and source	Victim	Additional information	Place of murder	Murderer's relation to the victim	Method of killing	Notes	Fate of the murderer
The state-run Didarnews.com, May 23, 2020	Hajareh Hossein-bor, 20	Forced into marriage at the age of 16, she had two sons	Town of Gasht, Sistan and Baluchestan Province	Husband	Her husband took her out of town, battered, and abandoned her outside a hospital.	When the hospital staff took her in, her digestive tract had been burned and no tooth remained in her mouth because of acid forced down her throat. Her head was full of thorns and both of her arms and hands had been pounded by stone. Many of her bones had been broken.	Her husband is at large
The state-run Hamshahri.com, May 27, 2020	An 18-year-old girl		Rasht, capital of Gilan Province	Younger brother	The brother deliberately burnt her house and she died due to severe burn injuries.	The brother opposed her sister's marriage to the man she loved. So, he burned the house when her sister and the man were inside.	The brother was arrested
Tribune Zamanah, May 28, 2020	Parastoo, 14	She was the third child in a family of seven and she did not go to school	A slum outside Kermanshah, capital of Kermanshah Province	Her two older brothers	She was beheaded and mutilated by her brothers in front of her two younger sister and brother. Her flesh was burned after the killing.	Parastoo had escaped with their neighbor's son, 17, but was caught by security forces and returned to Kermanshah. Despite confirming her virginity, the judge threatened to stone her. She pleaded to the judge not to send her home because she knew that her brothers would kill her.	Parastoo's father undertook the responsibility of the murder but nobody was arrested or imprisoned.

More figures on honor killings

The state-run didarnews.com also published other shocking information on violence against women.

It wrote that within a time span of seven months in 2009, fifteen (15) women in Ahvaz and more than 10 women in Kurdistan fell victim to honor killings. In 2011, at least 340 women were murdered in Iran. In 2018, at least 33 women in the provinces of Ilam, Lorestan, Kermanshah, Kurdistan, and West Azerbaijan were killed by their fathers, brothers, husbands or sons. In 2019, twenty-five (25) women fell victim to honor killings just in Kurdistan Province. (The state-run didarnews.com, May 18, 2020)

A glance at the cases reported by the state media in the past couple of months and just in a few provinces make one conclude that the actual data for the whole country has to be much higher than what is reported by the press.

There are thousands of Rominas in Iran....

Girls run away from violence at home

Even if the savageries inflicted on women do not end up in their deaths, they have adverse consequences for the lives of thousands of young women and girls.

A Welfare Organization advisor, Fatemeh Abbasi, announced that some 1,040 girls had fled home in 2017. Forty percent of these girls were under 15. She acknowledged that this figure was limited to the cases known to the Welfare Organization and that there are no accurate statistics available on the total number of runaway girls in the country.