



THE SPREAD OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THE MULLAHS' TACTIC TO
SYSTEMATICALLY CONTROL
HALF OF SOCIETY

Women's Committee
The National Council of Resistance of Iran

November 2021



The spread of violence against women, the mullahs' tactic to systematically control half of society

Copyright©2021 by Women's Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI)
All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

A publication of the Women's Committee of the National Council of Resistance of Iran
November 2021

ISBN: 978-2-35822-004-0




 women.ncr-iran.org
 @womenncri
 @womenncri



Table of Contents

- 2** Introduction - The Iranian Judiciary covers up violence against women
- 4** Assailant shooting women in bright day light is at large
- 8** Judges, prosecutors insult and humiliate female plaintiffs
- 12** Misogynous laws and patriarchal culture discriminate against women



The Iranian Judiciary covers up violence against women



- State violence perpetrated against women
- is several-fold more intense than the social or
- domestic violence that women experience.

Introduction

In today's Iran, we witness the constant spread of violence against women. We learn increasingly horrendous facts every day. The authorities attempt to cover up cases of violence against women, but in many instances, these cases are too obvious to be neglected. The clerical regime's failure to prosecute the perpetrators fully and its eagerness to release them indicates that it is taking advantage of this situation.

Repression is one of the two main pillars that drive the clerical dictatorship's survival. Consensus on the repression of women reigns highest for this regime.

The clerical regime has not signed the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ([CEDAW](#)). Repression in Iran primarily targets women, thereby controlling all society. Iran's regime is the number one executioner of women in the world. [State violence](#) perpetrated against women, under the pretext of the [political situation](#) or Hijab, etc., is several-fold more intense than the social or domestic violence that women experience.

Ebrahim Raisi, [a mass murderer](#) responsible for a vast number of political executions, is in power. Under his rule, the prospects for better conditions for women seem less feasible than ever before.



Assailant shooting women in bright day light is at large



- Violence against women and girls repeats itself and intensifies, whether in public places or at home. Eventually, the lack of punishment for offenders will amplify the culture of arbitrary behaviors.

At least five women shot; perpetrator released

On August 19, 2021, a young man shot and wounded at least five women in Isfahan using three different firearms. The perpetrator was identified within 48 hours and arrested. He was released on bail within a month.

An investigative reporter for Sharq, a state-run newspaper, interviewed the families of three of the victims but said that judicial officials had refused to discuss the matter.

Mahla, 28, an employee, was shot with a shotgun when returning home from work. Narges Gholami, 17, was shopping for a textbook. Zainab, 38, was targeted in a public square.

Mahla describes the event: "I felt my back was burning. I sat and put my hand on my side just to find it soaked in blood. I called my brother, and a taxi driver took me to a hospital. It was there that we found out that several others were also shot and wounded."

"I was wearing my uniform: a manteau that reached below my knees, navy pants, and a black scarf. I was wearing a sun hat so nobody could recognize my face," Mahla continued.

Since then, Mahla has preferred not to leave home. Instead, she is on two months of unpaid leave.

Narges recounts that day: "All of a sudden, I heard a loud noise. My back was burning, and I passed out. It was determined later that it was a 5.5-gauge rifle."

Zainab felt a sharp pain in her back while she was walking, and someone told her that her manteau was soaked in blood. She had been shot in the right shoulder. Today, she is too afraid to leave home. According to the mother of one of the victims, the person who carried the three firearms is now at large (The state-run Sharq newspaper - October 13, 2021).

Family of the victims threatened, hush money promised

"The bullet hit close to my daughter's spinal cord. Just a few centimeters further, she would have become paralyzed. We saw at least five others wounded at the hospital, but only two families stayed to file a complaint," noted the father of one of the victims. "While in the hospital, we were constantly ordered to not leak the news," he added.

"At the hospital, they interrogated us. They told us that if we want the state to pay for the hospital, we have to hush and file no complaint," another father states.

This event is reminiscent of another series of attacks on women in Isfahan in 2014 when the city's Friday Imam incited society against women. This provoked [the trend of splashing acid on women in Tehran and Isfahan](#), victimizing dozens of women. The perpetrators were never arrested or punished, and the lack of justice encouraged other men to behave similarly to carry out personal vendettas.

Flagrant Judicial discrimination and institutionalization of violence against women

According to Amir Raisian, a lawyer, "Punishment of criminal behavior will have a preventive effect in society... This phenomenon has been repeated time and again in Iran, like the act of splashing acid on women. The state's failure to pursue social rights results in the repetition of crimes" (The state-run Sharq newspaper - October 13, 2021).

"The law specifies that a person who draws a gun and instills fear in society should be charged with "Moharebeh" (enmity with God). In Isfahan, we are witnessing women being shot; after a little while, the shooter is released." Ali Mojtahedzadeh, another lawyer, adds, "To justify the act, the prosecutor and other judicial authorities say he was an addict under the effect of synthetic drugs." Mojtahedzadeh went on to say, "This is a flagrant judicial discrimination, and it is rooted in political standpoints."

"Splashing acid on someone is equal to murder and carries a severe punishment. Besides the personal aspects of the crime, it also has a public aspect, and the prosecutor is tasked with indicting the offender and pursuing the case seriously. The Isfahan event has become national. In my opinion, even the Provincial Security Council should have interfered," continued Mojtahedzadeh (The state-run ILNA news agency- October 19, 2021).

Fatima Babakhani, a jurist and women's rights activist, addressed the spread of violence against women: "The institutionalization of violence against women, failure to criminalize anti-social behaviors, the incompetence of the Judiciary, and the lack of

a fair trial ultimately lead to the fact that violent offenders go unpunished. There are many women, girls and children who, throughout their lives, have been subjected to domestic violence and sexual harassment. They are still suffering from these crimes, but they suffer in silence."

"We need to witness a change in the law that supports women and assures their safety, both at home and in society at large. Delaying the ratification of the ['Provision of Security for Women against Violence' bill](#) and withdrawing it from the parliamentary agenda is a warning of deliberate failure," she continued. "Violence against women and girls repeats itself and intensifies, whether in public places or at home. Eventually, the lack of punishment for offenders amplify the culture of arbitrary behaviors" (The state-run Sharq newspaper- October 13, 2021).



The institutionalization of violence against women, failure to criminalize anti-social behaviors, the incompetence of the Judiciary, and the lack of a fair trial ultimately lead to the fact that violent offenders go unpunished.



Parastoo Nauvardi

Judges, prosecutors insult and humiliate female plaintiffs



The state's failure to pursue social rights results in the repetition of crimes.

Prosecutor's aggression against a woman who suffered 3 years of torture

Parastoo Nauvardi is 36 and from Abadan. Her husband, who is addicted to crack, subjected her to brutal physical and mental torture for three years.

Fleeing the house, Parastoo took refuge with her parents. After some primary treatment, she posted a clip describing the violence she had suffered (Balatarin - October 12, 2021).

Parastoo describes some of the torture: "My husband has blinded me in both eyes, scalded me with boiling water, hanged me several times, and broken my arm. He used to stab me, and the scars are evident all over my body. My ears are seriously damaged."

She is also worried about her 9- and 10-year-old children and says she knows their father will torture them when he uses the drug.

After this clip was posted and when Parastoo referred to the Judiciary to take custody of her children, Hamid Marani, Abadan's prosecutor, aggressively attacked her verbally for publishing the clip. He demanded to know, "Why did you do a media interview?"

Woman pregnant with a sixth daughter, burned to death; husband goes unpunished

The ultrasound exam showed that Fatemeh Rasooli was pregnant with a girl. Her husband set her on fire, and she died.

On November 1, 2021, West Azerbaijan's local news channels wrote, "Fatemeh Rasooli from Qolishkak village in Maku and the mother of five girls was burned to death by her husband immediately after the ultrasound exam. He bound her hands and feet when she revealed that their sixth child was another girl (The state-run ROKNA news agency - November 1, 2021).

Maku's governor and the head of the city's Security Council, Ali Mohammadi, called the incident a "family dispute." He announced that Fatemeh's husband had been released on bail the following day (The state-run ISNA news agency - November 2, 2021).

Fatemeh's case proves once again that the clerical regime's misogynous Judiciary has no intention to allow justice to prevail for women. Had even a small investigation been conducted, the offender would not have been released so quickly.

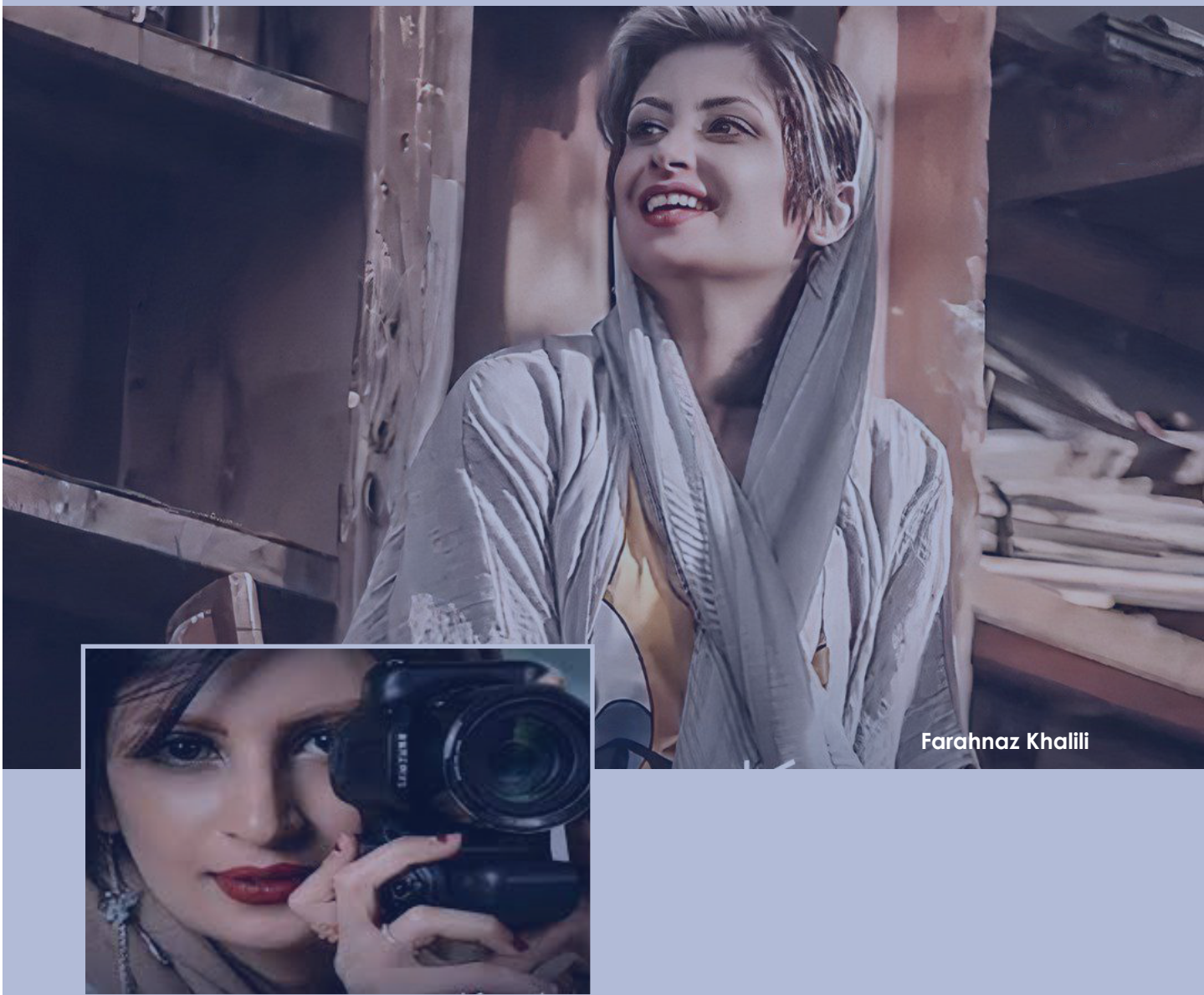
A photographer, 25, commits suicide because of the judge's negligence and insult

On August 23, 2021, Farahnaz Khalili, a photographer, committed suicide in the city of Bushehr after a judge refused to accept her complaint of having been raped. The judge also insulted the 25-year-old victim.

Two months before she committed suicide, Farahnaz had gone to a garden wedding to take photographs. At the end of the ceremony, there was a financial dispute. The client attacked her verbally and then raped her.

This young photographer tried to file a complaint, but the judge insulted her and made allegations against her. Having no refuge, she committed suicide.

In a suicide note, Farahnaz Khalili asked her family to seek the justice and rights she had been denied while she was alive.



❖ Violence against women has never been criminalized under this regime and is deliberately ignored by the Judiciary.



Misogynous laws and patriarchal culture discriminate against women



Currently, social harms are sweeping the country, and no home is safe in Iran.

Merciless murderers protected by patriarchal law

In the last two years, we have witnessed a steady stream of the brutal and merciless killings of women. These events, whether under the pretext of honor killings or family disputes, all point to the fact that the men of Iranian society, under the rule of so-called clerics, [rely on the law](#) that recognizes men as heads of households and the owners of women.

Such laws, and the dominant misogynous culture, open the door to men to exact revenge from the women in the family in the face of any economic or social pressure. Moreover, violence against women [has never been criminalized](#) under this regime and is deliberately ignored by the Judiciary.

According to research conducted by Parvin Zabihi, a women's activist in Marivan, Kurdistan, during the last 20 years, 1,200 women have been subjected to "honor killing" in Iran. "The law is written by men, and the culture is the product of a patriarchal and classist society," she stated (The state-run Salamatnews.com - October 23, 2021).

In an article published on November 19, 2020, on the state-run Jahan-e-San'at website, Mohammad-Reza Mahboubfar, a regime social pathology expert, wrote, "[Iran ranks first](#) when it comes to domestic violence."

"Currently, social harms are sweeping the country, and no home is safe in Iran," Mahboubfar added.

Then he revealed horrendous figures, "If this trend continues, the number of honor killings in the country, 450, could increase to 2,736 cases by the end of the year" (The state-run Jahan-e-San'at website - November 19, 2020).

According to [Article 220 of the Islamic penal code](#), "If a father or grandfather from the father's side kills his child or grandchildren, he will not be subjected to "Qesas," (i.e., Retribution) but he must pay the blood money and will be lashed."



- The bill has been shelved in Parliament for 10 months and is not given any priority. In fact, every report of shocking violence against women and murder, the bill has passed from one parliamentary commission to another.



- The dominant misogynous laws and culture open the door to men to exact revenge from the women in the family in the face of any economic or social pressure.

“Prohibition of violence against women,” a bill tangled among political views

Women's rights activists have succeeded in bringing the issue of the prohibition of violence against women into the social discourse. A bill aiming to prohibit violence against women was under discussion until Romina Ashrafi, 14, was beheaded by her father on May 21, 2020. In response to the public outcry, 24 days after Romina was killed, Rouhani, then-president of the clerical regime, rushed to the scene and hypocritically ordered the passage of a bill titled, “Protection, Dignity, and Security of Women” (The state-run IRNA news agency - June 13, 2020).

The Judiciary had referred the bill to the government in the late summer of 2019. The Judiciary not only changed the title of “Prohibition of Violence Against Women” to “Protection, Dignity, and Security of Women,” it also omitted 15 articles in the original bill, thereby changing the intent. Then-MP, Parvaneh Salahshoori, called the bill a “lion without mane, tail, or belly” (a Persian expression meaning good-for-nothing or of no use) and admitted that it would not be of any help regarding the issue of violence against women. According to Salahshoori, “If this bill is passed, women will sink into a more horrendous situation.”

Nonetheless, the bill stalled for 16 months under the Rouhani government. Eventually, on January 14, 2021, Rouhani's parliamentary deputy, Hossein-Ali Amiri, announced that the bill had been introduced in Parliament.

[The bill has been shelved in Parliament for 10 months](#) and is not given any priority. In fact, with every report of shocking violence against women and murder, the bill has passed from one parliamentary commission to another.

According to Ali Mojtahedzadeh, a lawyer, “the bill of ‘the Prohibition of Violence against Women’ is tangled among political views” (The state-run ILNA news agency - October 19, 2021).



- Delaying the ratification of the “Provision of
- Security for Women against Violence” bill and
- withdrawing it from the parliamentary agenda is a warning of deliberate failure.



THE SPREAD OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

THE MULLAHS' TACTIC TO
SYSTEMATICALLY CONTROL
HALF OF SOCIETY

ISBN 978-2-35822-004-0



Women's Committee
The National Council of Resistance of Iran

November 2021