

Jul/Aug 2019

International Liberty Association Newsletter

Rowlandson House • 289-297 Ballards Lane • London N12 8NP

W: www.iliberty.org.uk • **E:** info@iliberty.org.uk • **T:** 020 8452 3481

EDITORIAL

Each of our newsletters develops a theme and a message as the content begins to slot into place. As this one has been taking shape, we have also had a great sense of increased pace and momentum, passion and commitment, a rhythm, an unstoppable drumbeat that underlies every story we include.

Again we are reminded of the words of Neda Agha-Soltan, gunned down on a Tehran Street on 20 June, 2009 on the way to a peaceful demonstration - "If I do not go out and people like me do not go out then who will?" and of Saba Haftbaradan, killed in the deadly attack on Ashraf, Iraq, of 8 April 2011 - "We will persevere to the end."

Since the end of 2017 the people of Iran have found their voice and will not be silenced. They speak daily from the streets in rallies and demonstrations in defiance of repression and flood waters. They speak from the prisons, throwing away fear as they tell of the increased repression being an act of weakness from an economically and morally bankrupt regime.

And the children speak volumes as we see their childhood sacrificed to trying to make a living on the streets, or being married off to old men to make babies, many babies.

When Khomeini took control of Iran in 1979 and started suppressing and obliterating any dissent, branding them blasphemers and enemies of God, he was certain that he would own the hearts and minds of the new generation of young Iranians who would grow up with his velayat e-faqih, rule of the clergy.

40 years on, that generation and even their offspring have made it very clear that this is not the case as they

... continued on p.2

LESSONS OF HISTORY



Political prisoner Atena Daemi sent an open letter from prison which was published in social media on 26 May 2019. In the letter titled, 'Suppression, repression and corruption signal demise of a tyrannical rule!', the human rights activist presently incarcerated in Evin Prison wrote:

"History repeats itself and by studying history one can understand that the Islamic Republic regime is not feeling well. Suppression, terror, domestic discontent and protests by

various strata of people, poverty and rampant unemployment, denial and absence of civil liberties, along with the increasing number of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience, illegal heavy sentences, drastic surge in financial corruption and astronomical embezzlements, the chaotic and dangerous state of foreign policy and international relations which have resulted in consecutive back breaking sanctions, have all historically been signs of weakening ... continued on p.2

IRAN APPOINTS FORMER HANGING JUDGE AS DEPUTY MAJLIS SPEAKER



The Iranian regime has appointed a former member of the "Death Committee", in charge of many executions during the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, as the new Deputy Parliament Speaker.

Abdolreza Mesri represented the Revolutionary Prosecutor in the "Death Committee" in the western province of Kermanshah and sent a large number of political prisoners to their death.

The new deputy Majlis speaker was also head interrogator and torturer in Kermanshah during the 1980s .

He also served as Deputy Prosecutor in the province of Kurdistan and under the prosecutor in Kermanshah where he played an active role in the torture and execution of many political prisoners.

In 2006, he was appointed as Iran's minister of Welfare and Social Security and then became Iran's Ambassador to Venezuela in 2009.

It also became clear in recent years that Mesri's education credentials were fake and that numerous embezzlement and corruption charges were brought against him during his time at the Ministry of Welfare and Social Security. ... continued on p.2



Lessons of History *continued from p.1*

and demise of the ruling regimes of their times. They also signal to lack of support both inside the country and abroad, for the continued existence of such regimes.

The recent apprehensions of civil and political activists advocating the rights of workers, teachers, women, students, writers, etc. are cause of concern. Of course, the only party that needs to be concerned is the ruling regime! They are concerned and their actions indicate their weakness and disability. After all that's how they preserve their rule, by heavy suppression. We will achieve the outcome that we have been pursuing for years by resisting and remaining steadfast.

"We know very well that nothing can withstand the people's power and their grim resolve. It is enough for people to be aware, determined and have faith in the goal they seek. It is sufficient to spread this awareness and selflessness and they become pervasive.

"In recent years the agents [of the regime] tried to silence activists, killed many and kidnapped others, like Arjang Davoodi, and tried to eliminate others by variety of physical and psychological tortures. They are trying to silence me too by denying the most basic rights of a prisoner, by sending



Atena at the time of her arrest. Her bravery and stance for justice is a source of inspiration for many.

me to exile, by fabricating false cases against me, by harassing and intimidating my family, by lying and plotting against me inside the prison and by attributing immoral things to me... They want to suffocate the voice concealed in my pen. But I, like many of my cellmates, having learned how in the past couple of centuries political prisoners in my country have defied such foolish tricks, I will practice my lesson until I achieve what I have been imprisoned for.

The more pressure they impose, the closer their demise!! Just like a mother's pain before delivery. The greater the pain, the closer the birth and the end of all pains!



Atena is spirited even behind bars

Atena Daemi, 31, is a children's rights and human rights activist. She was arrested on 21 October 2014, and sentenced to 14 years in prison for 'propaganda against the state', 'association and collusion against national security' and 'insulting' Khamenei, among other charges. She was on hunger strike in 2017 for 54 days to protest her sisters' arrest and again in 2018 at Shahr-e Rey prison to protest prison conditions. She continues to protest from within Evin prison against the death penalty and execution of juvenile offenders.

Iran appoints *continued from p.1*

Apparently the regime, engulfed with economic crisis and regional tensions, is tightening its grip on the restive society by appointing hard line elements to key government positions.

Prior to this, in March, Ebrahim Raisi, member of the death commission in Tehran during the 1988 executions, became the Chief Justice. "We deem security as the most important issue in the country,"

the 58 year old cleric said during his inaugural ceremony in March. "We will not tolerate any kind of disturbance in the security of the country and will not concede," Raisi added.

The Iranian regime considers any kind of dissent as a threat to its security. Rights activists are handed heavy sentences for so-called "security charges".

Editorial *continued from p.1*

demand their basic human rights including the freedom just to be who they are.

And, nothing demonstrates the poverty of the regime's thinking more than the recent incentives from Khamenei to increase the population by another 70 million, as if he truly believes he could make the new millions his.

Does he not understand the great Lebanese poet, Khalil Gibran, as he says "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself." "Their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow."

And in the house of tomorrow, we look towards the harvest of all that has been sown and sense that there is no privation so unbearable that it can hold back the spirit of Life. As Atena Daemi puts it so well in her courageous statement from Evin prison: "Just like a mother's pain before delivery. The greater the pain, the closer the birth and the end of all pains."

Thank you for all you have done to enable the voice of the people of Iran to be heard. **Please join us in Trafalgar Square on 27 July** to add your voice to the millions in Iran now calling for an end to their pain and suffering. Surely that day will soon come.



"HOW LIFE COULD HAVE BEEN SO DIFFERENT FOR ME"

Our event in North London on 8 June was dedicated to **World Day Against Child Labour**. The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour on 12 June 2002 to focus attention on child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Unfortunately, this has become a devastating phenomenon in resource-rich Iran under the rule of the mullahs.

The event exhibition and a video briefed the audience about the extent and cruelty of this issue in Iran. The speakers also talked about it including **Azadeh Hosseini**, a mother of two young children and a secondary school head teacher. Excerpts of her speech follow:



I would like to thank you all for being here and for your endeavours in improving the lives of women and children in Iran.

My parents came to the UK as refugees when I was three years old, and my sister was just two months old, knowing that Iran was

not a place to raise their daughters. Unfortunately, however, for other young women and girls the harsh life under the mullahs is a bitter reality. Trafficking and exploitation of young girls, some the same age as my own daughter, is commonplace. An unprecedented number of Iranian girls are being forced into child marriage as you know, and this is mostly due to poverty. This issue sparked a renewed wave of outrage in February after an eleven-year-old girl was repeatedly raped after being forced to marry a man forty years her senior, who already had a wife and seven children. Sadly this is not uncommon, and what is worse is that there seems to be little outcry about this atrocity. Child marriage is just one area where the treatment of women in Iran has prompted concerns. Iran is a country where women are harassed to the extent where it is not even safe to go to work, where women are executed for simply defending themselves against rape by those in power. Those who rise up against injustice against women and children are faced with a harsh prison sentence. As you've seen from the videos, not a day goes by without a new clip being shown of Iranian children either selling chewing-gum and other items in order to feed their families, or children playing instruments on the streets to collect loose change to pay for their parents' medical bills, or other clips where children describe how they take it in turns to go to school with their siblings, as their parents cannot afford to buy them each a pair of shoes. Or there are other videos of mothers and children sorting through rubbish to find food to fill their empty stomachs.

As a young mother, it is such things that break my heart into a million pieces, and bring tears to my eyes. Whilst those in power in Iran line their pockets and use the Iranian wealth to fund terror groups, these innocent children are being robbed of their dignity and their youth on a daily basis. These children are a generation who would be left damaged and broken whose scars will run deep and may never heal.



As a teacher I am left wondering how will these children one day try to overcome the mental and physical scars inflicted upon them. I often remind myself that these could have been my children, with no food, no shelter or shoes to line their sore feet, forced to marry when very young because I had no means of supporting them – oh how life could have been so different for me!

What a shame, and how sad it is to be speaking such words in the context of a country with such a proud history and such a proud people, a country whose oil should see to the needs of the Iranian people ten times over. Even thirty-five years ago when my parents left the country, they could not have imagined what would become of the country that they loved, and what would become of the situation of women and children of their homeland. Fortunately, the work of organisations such as International Liberty Association, whose work I am proud of, brings this to light. We are all here because this issue has touched us in some ways, and I am so grateful to each and every one of you for being here.



Another speaker at the event was **Dr Davina Lloyd**:

Before I begin I wanted to say two thank-yous. First thank-you is to all my Iranian friends. This might seem a strange thank-you, but before I knew them I knew nothing about Camp Liberty.

But what they gave me was the chance to save the lives of other human beings, and I think the one thing you can do in life, the best thing you can do in life, is to save the life of somebody else, and there is nothing ... continued on p.5



IRANIANS IN BRUSSELS CALL FOR AN END TO EXECUTIONS



Iranian diasporas held a rally outside the Council of the European Union in Brussels on Saturday 15 June to protest executions and unlawful imprisonments in Iran. The rally was sponsored by dozens of associations and rights groups.



Member of the Belgian Parliament, **Françoise Schepmans**, highlighted women's rights violations in Iran and how the

mullahs' regime is utterly terrified of the role women play in Iran's struggle for freedom and concluded by saying "I'm waiting for the day when we could see a free Iran."

Dr Alejo Vidal-Quadras, former Vice-President of the European Parliament, saluted the crowd for "gathering here to be the voice of the Iranian people suffering from the rule of the mullahs", and called on the EU to condemn the regime for human rights violations.



Former Italian Foreign Minister **Giulio Terzi** said: "The European Union must blacklist Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS)

as a terrorist organization and expel all the Iranian regime's diplomats."

"It is important in this critical juncture of what is happening in the Persian Gulf today that we stand here and support the rights of the people of Iran," he said.



Ingrid Betancourt, former Colombian Senator and Presidential candidate, who was held hostage for more than 6 years, also addressed the rally

and said: "It is dangerous for the EU to continue to be on its knees in front of the Iranian regime.

"It is dangerous that EU leaders have forgotten who they are, the supposed defenders of human rights."

Prof Eric David, Emeritus Professor of International Law at the Université Libre de Bruxelles told the protesters:

"Some 120,000 activists have been executed by Iran's regime since 1981 for political and religious reasons. The perpetrators of this crime should be tried, and I hope that this will happen soon."



REDUCTION IN EXECUTIONS, SIGNAL THAT WE SHOULD WORK HARDER

The worldwide death toll in 2018 was a third as compared to 2017. That was the lowest rate in the current decade, though not because of willingness from the governments, but rather thanks to pressure from the international communities and tireless efforts of 'Stop Execution's' activists. It wasn't an easy task since many human rights activists got arrested and many are still in prison. But together with human rights groups and organisations, they echoed their protests and opened the eyes of the world.

Dictators, contrary to their desires, are forced to decrease the number of executions. Without any doubt, if we raise our voices and our pressures, we can take quicker steps towards our goal which is "No to the

death penalty". So let's try harder to establish a world without execution.

In the past year, the rate of execution has been decreased globally and that includes Iran as well. However, the question is whether Iran has changed its behaviour or not. The answer is not at all.

The drop in executions is not a sign of goodwill of the government, but rather the result of outside pressure. The regime more than ever before needs executions in order to silence the people. The West used to turn blind eyes about human rights violations in Iran. The voice of the Iranian human rights activists and organisations were ignored. But, under pressure from the public opinion, governments are now forced to bring the human rights issues up

in their meetings with their Iranian counterparts.

Although the regime needs to suppress people more than ever, but they need to keep their relations too and therefore they have decreased executions even though it might be a temporary situation.

In "Iran's year of shame", as Amnesty International called 2018, at least 7,000 people, including students, journalists, environmentalists, human rights activists, women activists and members of labour unions, were arrested. Right now at least 114 juveniles are on death row in Iran. Iran is the only country in the world that executes juveniles.

So we need to work harder and campaign more vigorously, now that we know it works.



Our event in North London *continued from p.3*

better than that; and then, to top it all, they let me go to Albania and meet the people whose lives I've saved, and that was overwhelmingly joyful, and for that I say thank you to them all. And I also want to thank you all, everybody here, for everything you do to support this wonderful organisation and for everything you've done in the past to make sure that our friends escaped that dreadful, ironically-named Camp Liberty.

I think we all know that the current regime of mullahs are only interested in expanding their misogynistic and very cruel version of Islam across the world. And because they obviously have different world-view to everybody else, they see that the best way to do this is to increase their population from 82 million to 150 million, when everybody else in the world is trying to cut back on the expanding population. Now the slight problem with this is, if you want an instant increase in babies being born, all you can do is take young girls, girls under the age of eighteen, to older men, and that is the state-sanctioned view of what you do with little girls. And so currently 17 per cent, that's almost a fifth, of all marriages in Iran, are with young girls under the age of eighteen, and one million of those marriages are with girls aged ten to fourteen. And the whole idea is to get them pregnant and expand the population of an Islamic state. I myself, as a biology teacher, I know that it is not right, either physically or mentally, for young girls to be having children at such a young age, and the problems that will then come to them, both physically and mentally, afterwards are extreme; and it is a most awful form of child torture. The consequence of that is that the suicide, or attempted suicide as well, of all these young girls has considerably increased. We have to do something to stop that.



The second thing of course, as you saw, is all the problems with work. These girls have a particular problem because they don't often stay married. Once they've done their bit, once they're no longer virgins, these older men move on to the next one, and there are huge numbers, something like 40,000, very young girls divorced before they get to eighteen. The problem they've got is that they're now on the scrapheap. Nobody wants them, and how on earth are they going to get any work, except on the streets, because they haven't got any education, because at marriage the education stops as well? And they're not the only ones that don't get the education. It's hard with Iran to get hold of actual figures except for the ones that they give you themselves, but there are about 3.2 million children who don't get any education and about seven million of those actually work on the streets.

The average life expectancy on the streets is ten and that's because, not only do you become ill because of the



life on the streets, but you are trafficked. You are rented out for sex. You are sold and sold for your organs as well, and there are no laws to prevent any of this happening whatsoever.

So the situation for a child in Iran is appalling.

I just wanted to say that I give to a number of charities and I'm involved in a lot of charity work, and the ILA is the only charity that I give to that I know that none of the money I give is going to some executive in charge. I know it's going out there to do good work and I have seen the consequences of their work myself. So children are our future, that's what it says. Let's help them. Thank you!



Ehsan Gharaei:

Life for the children of political prisoners, prisoners of conscience, and those of them on death row is miserable and sad. Most of these kids suffer from depression and anxiety. These pressures have destructive effects which hurt these children during their whole life.

I and my sister Amina were in this category. My parents were both teachers. After the revolution in 1979, like all Iranians, they were active to build a democratic and free Iran, but very soon they realised that the mullahs were trying to establish a theocratic regime and in fact create an Islamic caliphate.

Soon after, the regime started to arrest everybody who was against its fundamentalist mindset. As a result, many students, teachers, university lecturers and intellectuals got arrested. My parents were also among them. At the time when my mum got arrested, one-year-old Amina was with her. Both of them got transferred to prison and for a period of three months the jailers tortured my mother in front of her terrified daughter who was just screaming during torture sessions.

Eventually they let my mum send Amina out of the prison to my grandparents. After three years, when my mum got released from prison, she went immediately to see her daughter and hug her, but Amina was running away from her while she was screaming, maybe because my mother's face brought very terrifying memories back.

At last, my father also got out of the prison and my parents decided to build their life from the start. This was the time when I was born, in the happy times, but the happy times didn't last too long, because ten days after my birthday they arrested my father again, this time because he had a simple phone call from one of ... *continued on p.6*



Our event in North London *continued from p.5*

his friends who lived abroad. The regime's court sentenced him to five years' imprisonment, but two years later, in the massacre of the summer of 1988, he, alongside 30,000 other political prisoners got secretly executed by a fatwa which Khomeini issued.

All of them were buried in mass graves and until this day no one knows the exact location of their graves. At the time of the execution, I was three years old, Amina was eight and my mum was thirty.

Obviously I don't have any memories of my father or those days, but Amina remembers everything and those memories and experiences have affected her life severely.

The terrible conditions that Gabriella, the daughter of Nazanin Ratcliffe, is experiencing right now are very similar to what Amina went through 31 years ago.

In the past 40 years, thousands and thousands of Aminas and Gabriellas experienced the same fate or even worse, and these crimes against Iranian children are still going on, but I believe that our efforts will eventually change the current situation.

In that day, we won't see any child working at factories

or selling goods on the street. We will not hear in the news that a young bride committed suicide because of her forced marriage, and hopefully we will never, ever hear of a child growing up without knowing his or her parents. I have to thank all of you for listening to me, and also special thanks to International Liberty Association for arranging this event and for fighting for the rights of the Iranian children. Thank you!



"MOST UNACCEPTABLE" VERDICT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, NASRIN SOTOUDEH

Human rights lawyer, **Nasrin Sotoudeh**, is in jail in Iran. In an open letter, she writes about her new verdict which condemned her to more than 33 years imprisonment based on seven new accusations.

One of these accusations is "encouraging corruption and prostitution" which is related to accepting to defend the "girls of Enghelab Street", referring to the girls and women who removed their forced hijab in public and turned them into flags for liberty.

Another charge is "association and collusion with the intent of sabotaging national security", for taking part in a sit-in outside the Justice Ministry's Lawyers Guild.

In her letter she explains more details about the verdicts issued by judge Mogheyseh and writes:

"Contrary to the principles of judgement, the judge has used a defamatory term for the girls of Enghelab Street, which could be prosecuted.

"The court was convened without the presence of the accused or her lawyer. They prevented the lawyer from attending the legal procedure."

Mrs Sotoudeh emphasises that like many other cases, the principles of a fair trial have been ignored in her case too:

"Of course I do not wish to



participate in any way in this game of injustice. Let the judges of the Revolutionary Courts play on their own. However, what is important is that in almost all the cases undertaken by the Revolutionary Court, the verdicts are issued by violating the principles of a fair trial. This trend is so extensive and systematic.

"A large number of political and civil activists and followers of other faiths confront the dangers of such unfair trials. In these trials, the lawyer is prevented from attending the trial; the court does not require security agencies to submit any reasons or documents; and the accused is not

given enough time for defence."

This letter has been published while there were many international protests in recent days against her heavy sentence.

In one of the latest reactions, the French National Bar Council (CNB) has posted a big portrait of Nasrin Sotoudeh on their building calling for her freedom.

Christian Frell Shoul, the CNB president, recently said that "all of the lawyers in France stand by Nasrin Sotoudeh. This Iranian lawyer has been sentenced to the most unacceptable punishments in the 21st century just because she is a lawyer."



NEWS IN BRIEF

'A SHOCKING INJUSTICE'



Responding to the news that Iranian human rights lawyer **Amir Salar Davoudi** has been sentenced to 30 years in prison and 111 lashes for his human rights work, including publicising violations through a channel he set up on the Telegram mobile messaging app and giving media interviews, Amnesty International's Research and Advocacy Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Philip Luther, said: "This shockingly harsh sentence is an outrageous injustice. Amir Salar Davoudi is blatantly being punished for his work defending human rights. "Setting up a Telegram channel to expose human rights violations is not a crime. The Iranian authorities must release Amir Salar Davoudi immediately and unconditionally."

FIVE MORE PRISONERS HANGED IN IRAN



Three inmates were hanged in Gohardasht Prison in Karaj on Wednesday, 12 June 2019. Two of the men have been identified as **Amir Tahmaseb** and **Samad Basideh**.

On the same day the head of the Justice Department of Ardabil, Nasser Atabati, announced that they had executed an inmate in Ardabil Prison.

On Sunday, 9 June, **Hashem Amiri**, a married man with three children, was hanged in a prison in Gorgan, the capital of the northern Province of Golestan.

In the past four decades the Iranian regime has used the death penalty to silence a disgruntled public,

the majority of whom live under the poverty line, are unemployed and deprived of freedom of expression.

JOURNALISTS DENIED MEDICAL TREATMENT IN IRANIAN JAIL

At least three journalists and bloggers languishing in prison in Iran are being denied medical care and subjected to shocking sanitary conditions although extremely ill, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in a statement on 12 June.



RSF condemned the Iranian regime's inhuman and degrading treatment of the imprisoned journalists and urged the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Iran to take action in defence of **Narges Mohammadi**, **Soheil Arabi** and **Sanaz Allahyari**.

Denying medical care is a flagrant violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a party.

21 YEAR OLD POLITICAL PRISONER MURDERED IN TEHRAN PRISON

Political prisoner **Alireza Shir-Mohammad-Ali**, 21, was stabbed to death by two prisoners of serious crimes in the notorious Greater Tehran Penitentiary on Monday, 10 June 2019.

Alireza Shir-Mohammad-Ali had been arrested in July 2018 and sentenced to 8 years in prison for insulting Khomeini and Khamenei, and for anti-regime propaganda.

Alireza Shir-Mohammad-Ali and his fellow inmate **Barzan Mohammadi** were on hunger strike for one month, in prison.

Apparently two convicts were given knives by prison authorities and as was planned, no guards were in the ward when the fight broke out. According



to reports, prison authorities had already disconnected the phones in this ward.

Alireza Shir-Mohammad-Ali was stabbed in the stomach and his main arteries. Barzan Mohammadi was also badly wounded. Shir-Mohammad-Ali lost his life before reaching the Hospital.

The Greater Tehran Penitentiary, also known as Fashafouyeh, is located 32 km south of the capital. The prison was initially constructed as a concentration camp for drug-related convicts. However, political prisoners and prisoners of conscience are often sent there as punishment. There have been numerous reports about inhuman conditions in this prison.

Last September, Gonabadi dervishes were brutalised in this prison for holding a protest sit-in against beating of their wives and relatives in Qarchak Prison.

Political prisoner Soheil Arabi is also detained in this prison and has been beaten up many times.

HOSTAGES ARE TORTURED IN IRAN'S EVIN PRISON



In an interview with The Associated Press, **Nizar Zakka**, a Lebanese man and permanent US resident who was released earlier in June by Tehran after years in an Iranian prison said that he was subjected to "all kinds of torture," both physical and mental, during his nearly four-year detention in the notorious Evin prison. "Nobody on earth deserves such suffering," he said in the 30-minute interview during which he broke down in tears.



WOMEN ACTIVISTS SUFFER TIGHTENING REPRESSION IN IRAN



Three women activists, **Marzieh Amiri**, **Neda Naji** and **Atefeh Rangriz** were among 15 activists who were brutalised and arrested by security forces during an International Workers Day demonstration on 1 May 2019, in Tehran across from the Iranian parliament.

The detention warrants for Neda Naji and Marzieh Amiri have been extended for another month and the warrant for Atefeh Rangriz has been turned into bail but prison authorities are preventing her release claiming that a new charge has been added to her case.

Marzieh Amiri is presently detained in the general ward of Evin Prison.

Neda Naji has completed her interrogations but is presently detained in solitary confinement.

Atefeh Rangriz has been returned to the Shahr-e Ray Prison for women

in Varamin after finishing her interrogations.

In other news on women activists, Evin Prison authorities have been preventing transfer of **Sanaz Allahyari** to hospital despite her deteriorating health conditions.

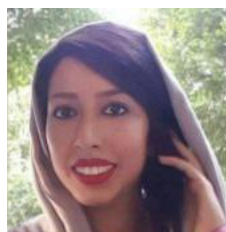
Sanaz Allahyari, a member of the editorial board of a magazine, has become seriously ill during months of detention. She has become extremely weak, her limbs shake, she suffers from bad stomach ache, but her illness has not been diagnosed.

Despite the efforts of her family, prison officials have been preventing her transfer to hospital to receive the medical treatment she badly needs.

Women's rights activist **Saba Kord Afshari**, was first arrested and imprisoned during a

peaceful protest in August 2018 as part of the large-scale nationwide protest movement.

She was released, but, now aged 19, was re-arrested on 1 June 2019 and sentenced to imprisonment for



trumped-up charges like "promotion of corruption and prostitution" through removing the veil and walking without it; anti-regime propaganda; having contacts with groups opposing the regime; and collusion and association against the state.

After being held in solitary for ten days in Vozara Detention Center, Saba Kord Afshari was transferred to the Quarantine Ward of Qarchak Prison on Tuesday, 11 June 2019.

In another development **Zahra Mohammadi** (below), director of Nojin Social and Cultural Association was arrested on 23 May 2019. A week later on 30 May, her family were able to visit her. They have had no news of her since then.



CAN ANYONE HEAR OUR VOICE? THE PEOPLE OF IRAN CRY OUT PLEASE JOIN US IN OUR RALLY TO ECHO THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS

The people of Iran are suffering huge repression and injustice. They cry out for help every day but their voices are crushed by oppressive forces who are in control of Iran's wealth.

ILA is joining other human rights associations in organising a demonstration in Trafalgar Square. Please join us in this endeavour to echo the voice of the oppressed people of Iran.

1PM – 4PM SATURDAY 27 JULY

Venue: Trafalgar Square outside National Gallery
RSVP - info@iliberty.org.uk or call 020 8452 3481



ILA Social Evening in Kingston

4.30pm – 8.30pm
Thursday
22 August 2019

Richard Mayo Centre
Eden Street
Kingston-upon-Thames
KT1 1HZ

Entry fee £10

