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# International Liberty Association Newsletter

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## NATIONWIDE UPRISING ACROSS IRAN



### EDITORIAL

Although the mullahs ruling Iran are famous for violating the most basic rights of the people of Iran in all walks of life, without a doubt it should be said that the oppression perpetrated against women by the mullahs cannot be described by any standards. Women are particularly humiliated and insulted by the ruling mullahs and the dignity of Iranian women is targeted under medieval laws ratified by this misogynist regime.

A young Kurdish girl, Mahsa Amini was beaten and killed by repressive forces, just because some hair was showing outside her headscarf. The Iranian people's uprising that followed her death is not only to seek justice for the innocent victim, but to establish ... *continued on p.2*

Crowds chant "Down with the dictator" and women make public displays of cutting their hair and burning their headscarves as demonstrations continue in Tehran as well as over 165 other Iranian cities. Protesters initially demanded justice for **Mahsa Amini**, who died on September 16 in custody of the so-called "morality police".

Protests began when news surfaced that she had suffered a fatal head injury at the hands of the "morality police". Two weeks later, the protests have only intensified.

The deaths of protesters at the hands of Iranian authorities have further increased public resentment towards Iran's government. More than 200 people ... *continued on p.2*

### WHO IS MAHSA AMINI?

**Mahsa Amini** has become the icon of the recent uprising in Iran. Who is she and why has her death sparked such a relentless wave of protests across Iran and in fact across the globe?

Mahsa was a 22-year-old daughter of a Kurdish family living in Saez, Kurdistan province, Iran. She travelled to Tehran on 13 September 2022 to visit family and friends. Upon arrival in Tehran, in a metro station, she was stopped by Iran's brutal "morality police", forced into their van and taken to Tehran's Vozara Detention Centre. While in the van eyewitnesses say that she was severely beaten and insulted and when she complained

about a headache, her captors accused her of acting and refused to take her to hospital. After arriving at the police station she fainted and by the time she was taken to hospital the doctors said she was in a vegetative state and they could not bring her back to



life. She died in Kasra hospital on September 16th. ... *continued on p.3*



## Nationwide uprising across Iran

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have been killed so far during these protests, which began at the funeral in her home town of Saez in western Kurdistan on 17 September.

During a televised speech on 30 September 2022, **Mrs Maryam Rajavi**, President-elect of the Iranian opposition parliament in exile, said:

“We hail the rebellious cities in the Iranian people’s nationwide uprising, from north to south and from east to west. From Azerbaijan and Kurdistan to Qeshm Island, Behbahan, Zahedan, Mashhad, Bojnourd, Ardabil, Tabriz, Chabahar, and to Greater Tehran.

And we salute the heroic people of Amol who have terrified the repressive forces by setting fire to the governor’s building and the police station, forcing the anti-riot forces to retreat. Of course, to advance the uprising, they paid a heavy price: 18 martyrs.

The Iranian people’s nationwide uprising has advanced to this day,



with more than 12,000 arrests and hundreds of martyrs. From the blood of these martyrs, tulips have blossomed all over Iran.

The mullahs’ Supreme Leader wanted to block the path of protests by bringing into office Ebrahim Raisi, the murderer of PMOI [prisoners in 1988], and by tightening the repression. But you blocked his way with an uprising even bigger than the previous ones.

Beset by uprisings, the mullahs are truly helpless and without a solution. At the same time, you are

more powerful, more aggressive, and more united than ever.

Today, I address you women and girls, the vanguards of the uprisings and revolution. You have suffered greatly and sacrificed much to keep the flame of uprising burning.

Your bravery is widely admired. You have shown that your choice and determination for freedom are a thousand times more powerful than the mullahs’ repression and killing.

With such courage no doubt you shall succeed!”

## Editorial

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justice for all Iranian women and for an end to the crimes committed by this anti-human regime.

The volcano of the people’s anger erupted in a standoff with the Iranian regime in all provinces of Iran and even in the ‘Holy’ cities of Mashhad and Qom. This is a clear message to the clerical regime that not only are the anti-human rights and medieval laws not worthy of the Iranian people but that they want to protect the equal rights of women and other segments of Iranian society and bring to an end the brutal executions of those with different political viewpoints.

The crackdown on popular protests in Iran has exposed widespread patterns of illegal use of force and excessive violence by security forces. These include the use of live ammunition, shotgun bullets, and machine guns in addition to severe beatings of protesters and sexual violence.

We are witnessing images of Iranians, from all over the country, bravely standing up to the security forces. So far, hundreds of people, including children, have been killed, hundreds injured and more than 20,000 arrested.

With the help of the Iranian diaspora communities, we have launched a massive campaign around the world,

holding protest action and demonstrations in 70 cities to amplify and support the voices of the Iranian people. Under the influence of these campaigns many personalities and governments have supported the Iranian people and their human rights.

**We must not ignore the voices of the brave people of Iran who are desperately crying out for international support.** We must respond to their calls in these difficult and decisive times. We extend our hand to every single one of you, supporters and friends of the ILA for help. **Please do not hesitate to take any action in order to make the cries of Iranian people be heard.**





## Who is Mahsa Amini?

*continued from p.1*

Her brother who was with her when she was stopped was told that she would only attend a 40-minute course on Hijab in their centre.

When news of her death broke people gathered outside the hospital and started chanting slogans against the regime and the so-called “morality police” force. The regime media started to produce false narratives that she had a prior health condition and died of a heart attack. Her father rejected the claim with a public video posted on social media amidst threats by security forces.

The regime made the family bury her in haste but failed to prevent the gathering of people for her funeral. Protests began there and have now spread across the country led by courageous women who rejected the abusive actions of the “morality police” force.

The more the regime has tried to suppress the protests the bigger and wider they have become. By the time of preparing this newsletter we are entering the third week of protests and there is no sign of protesters giving up.



Crowds gather at Mahsa Amini's funeral. Police later fired on the mourners.



The epitaph on Amini's grave reads “You will not die. Your name will turn into a symbol.”

## MOUNTING GLOBAL SUPPORT FOR THE PROTESTS

The ongoing protests in Iran and Mahsa's death have triggered worldwide solidarity with the Iranian people and condemnation of Iran's ruling theocracy. Below are examples of the international community's reaction to Iran's uprising.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said that the Biden administration “will certainly look for ways to facilitate technology services being made accessible to people in Iran” amid widespread internet outages during the nationwide unrest.

“Authorities in Iran must fully respect the rights of protestors calling for justice for Mahsa Amini, the young woman who died in custody after being arrested for allegedly violating strict dress codes,” the UN human rights office, OHCHR, said on Tuesday, 27 September.

In an interview with Euronews, **Professor Javaid Rehman**, UN

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, said:

“Iranian authorities have used excessive force against innocent protestors who are simply asking for their rights to be recognized.”



**Justin Trudeau**, the Canadian Prime Minister, said: “Canada strongly supports people who are expressing themselves and protesting peacefully in Iran. We are calling on the Iranian regime to end its repression of freedom of expression – and to end the ongoing harassment of, and discrimination against, women.”

Australian Minister for Foreign

Affairs **Senator Penny Wong** and Minister for Finance, Public Service and Women Affairs **Senator Katy Gallagher** issued a joint statement, condemning “the deadly and disproportionate use of force against protestors in Iran, following the tragic death of the 22-year-old Mahsa Amini”.

The widespread support for the protests in Iran does not fit in this newsletter. It is sufficient to know that #MahsaAmini has been circulated over 200 million times.



Actress Amy Jackson is among millions of people expressing support for Iranian women.



## PROTESTS IN IRAN POINT TO A NEW REVOLUTION



The current protests in Iran appear to be following a very significant pattern. They began as a response to the death of **Mahsa Amini** in custody and the underlying suppression of women's rights. The initial protests took place in Iranian Kurdistan, where Amini was buried the day after being killed by "morality police" in Tehran, where she had travelled to visit. Since then, demonstrations have spread to at least 165 cities with participants signalling their demand for regime change with slogans like "Down with the dictator".

As well as condemning the regime's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, the participants in this and other recent protests have also been chanting "Down with Raisi".

When Khamenei put forward Ebrahim Raisi as the only viable candidate for the June 2021 presidential election, he expected that he would help to suppress expressions of anti-regime sentiment. That expectation was rooted in Raisi's prior role as one of four members of the Tehran "death commission" during the 1988 massacre of over 30,000 political prisoners across Iran.

As it happens, Khamenei's gambit backfired. The protests have been happening one after another since his selection with chants of "Down with the dictator" and "Down with Raisi".

The rapid escalation of these protests is certainly attributable, in part, to the simmering tensions that have built up through a series of uprisings and corresponding

instances of government repression. The largest of the recent uprisings, in November 2019, met with mass shootings that killed over 1,500 innocent protesters. This did not prevent further large-scale demonstrations from breaking out only two months later in January 2020.

A series of brutal repressions from the early days of this regime have left three generations of Iranians with a strong sense of being denied justice and basic rights, including the right to pursue happiness and tranquility.

Under these circumstances, the profound injustice of Mahsa Amini's death was all that was needed to spark another uprising in pursuit of real change for democracy and freedom. Protesters want nothing but the right to live a normal life with equal rights and opportunities in the 21st century, which cannot be guaranteed under an Islamist regime keen to take society back 1400 years.

The continuation of the protests in which people have united regardless of gender, generation, and ethnicity, points to a new revolution that is imminent and inevitable. People of Iran, boy or girl, whether young or old, whether Kurd, Baluchi, Arab, Turkman, Turk, Gilani or Fars, they all have one common goal, to end the tyrannical religious dictatorship and replace it with a system that reflects their views and aspirations. This time it seems that they are not ready to settle with less! Glory and victory to them.





## THE WORLD CAN HELP IRANIAN PEOPLE BY PROVIDING MEDIA ACCESS



Iran's nationwide uprising continues despite the regime's heavy crackdown and an internet blackout. According to many observers, the country is on the verge of a revolution. To prevent this outcome, regime officials try to disconnect the Iranian people from the world in order to pursue their killing spree.

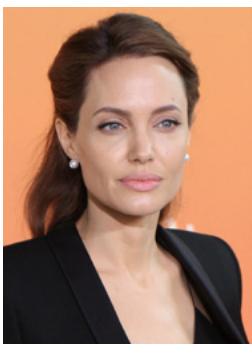
Ahmad Vahidi, the regime's Minister of Interior, officially announced on 23 September that the internet shutdown will continue in Iran as long as anti-government protests continue. Netblocks, an independent internet observatory platform, reported that "Iran is now subject to the most severe internet restrictions since the November 2019 massacre. Mobile networks are largely shut down. Instagram and WhatsApp are restricted."

WhatsApp, a social media platform widely used by Iranians, announced on 22 September that it was making efforts to help Iranian protesters connect.

"We exist to connect the world privately. We stand with the rights of people to access private messaging. We are not blocking Iranian numbers. We are working to keep our Iranian friends connected and will do anything within our technical capacity to keep our service up and running" the company wrote on Twitter.

Under these difficult circumstances satellite TV seems to be the most reliable method of communication and spreading information. ILA is committed to supporting this effort and we call on all our supporters to help us keep up the free flow of information to and from Iran.

## SUPPORT FOR IRANIAN PROTESTERS



**Angelina Jolie** has spoken out in support of Iranian women's right to "live and breathe without violence or threats". In an Instagram post, Jolie, 47, posted several photographs of women protesting on the streets and cutting their hair and said: "Protests in Iran are in their 12th consecutive night. They started in response to the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini while in morality police custody."

"Since the protests began, riot police have attacked protestors with brutal force, and more than 70 people have reportedly been killed."

Posting on Twitter, **JK Rowling** said: "The Iranian regime kills young women who

protest against misogyny."

ILA Supporters too, have been sending heartfelt messages. **Anna Ringler** wrote: "To the courageous Iranian women and men of every age who stand up for their belief in the equality of God's people, in a life of dignity, justice and freedom. May the sacrifice of so many of your beloved daughters, mothers, fathers and sons be for all of us a flame of hope. May God hear your cries and wipe every tear from your eyes. May our hearts be united in God's love."

**Lucy Edgeley** wrote: "Our hearts go out to you who put yourselves forward to fight for freedom and dignity, and by doing so have put yourselves in the path of danger. Your courage is extraordinary. Your determination is so strong."

**Jane Lewis** wrote about 'young women' of Iran: "Their courage is humbling and if their voices are being silenced then we will speak for them. No God of any religion would condone what is being done by this oppressive regime... I pray for the day when you are able to live as you would wish in peace and freedom."





## JOURNALISTS AND RIGHTS ACTIVISTS AMONG 12,000 ARRESTED SO FAR



Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee



Photographer Yalda Amiri

On the 12th day of protests which have continued in Tehran and other major cities, the number of those arrested so far is estimated to be 12,000. Hundreds of students, dozens of journalists, and many human rights and civil activists are among those arrested. The world must take meaningful action to stop the brutal crackdown on protesters.

The protests continued at full strength in dozens of Tehran districts and other cities, including Mashhad, Kermanshah, Shiraz, Sanandaj, Yazd, Karaj, Jam (Bushehr), Firuzabad (Fars), Gohardasht (Karaj), Pardis (Karaj), and Chabahar.

The clerical regime shut down the internet, mobilized its troops, and stationed them in various parts of cities to quell the uprisings, brutally crack down on protesters and make widespread arrests.

They also do house-to-house searches to identify student activists and take them to jail.

Human and civil rights activist

**Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee** was arrested in Tehran by agents of the Intelligence Ministry on Monday 26 September. They ransacked her house and confiscated some of her personal belongings before taking her to an undisclosed location.

The former political prisoner has been imprisoned several times since 2014. She was last released from Amol Prison on 9 May 2022.

Human rights activist **Sanaz Razavifard** was transferred from the notorious Sepidar Prison of Ahvaz to the detention centre of the Intelligence Department of Behbahan on 26 September.

Ms Razavifard was arrested with two other women and 40 men during the protests in Behbahan on 22 September 2022. Behbahan, in Khuzestan Province, was one of the centres of protest during the November 2019 uprising.

**Elmira Bahmani**, a women's rights activist, was arrested by intelligence services in Rasht, the capital of Gilan Province, on 26 September. Intelligence agents broke into her house and took her to an unknown location without presenting an arrest warrant.

In other news, four female human rights and civil activists, **Fatemeh Niknam**, **Fatemeh Ghara'ati**, **Rose Barjas** and **Aida Kiani**, were arrested in Dehdasht, southwest Iran, on Sunday 25 September.

Photographer **Yalda Amiri**, who took the famous photo of the 2017 Iran protests was arrested in the early days of the protests against the death of Mahsa Amini. She has called home to inform her family of the horrible conditions in Qarchak Prison. She said more than 100 women are detained in a hall without ventilation or any basic facilities.

Two journalists residing in Sirjan, in the southern Kerman Province, **Batool Balali** and **Samira Alinejad**, were arrested on Thursday 22 September during the protests in this city. The two are presently detained in the Prison of Sirjan.

Another journalist, **Niloufar Hamed**, was also arrested and detained on 22 September during the protests in Tehran. In a telephone call to her mother and husband on 26 September she told them that she was being detained in solitary confinement.



Journalists arrested, from left to right: Niloufar Hamed, Batool Balali and Samira Alinejad





## IRAN PROTESTS IN THE WORLD MEDIA



Iran protests that started after an innocent girl, **Mahsa Amini**, died in custody were widely covered in international media.

Protests inside Iran started on September 15 and have been continuing ever since.

Videos made available online show the protests convulsing Iran over the death of the 22-year-old woman who had been detained by the nation's "morality police". The videos show that public anger across the country, once only simmering, is now boiling.

Protests in Iran, reinforced by diaspora demonstrations outside of Iran, have drawn the attention of media worldwide. Here are examples of the titles used, giving a picture, the whole of which cannot be fitted in this newsletter.

### REUTERS:

**Students Tear Khamenei's Images from Text Books**

### CNN:

**US is expected to issue new sanctions against law enforcement officials and those directly involved in crackdown of protesters in Iran.**

### BBC:

**Iranian security forces stole the body of a 16-year-old protester, and buried her secretly in a village...**

### MSNBC

**Swedish politician cuts off hair in solidarity with women of Iran**

### UPI:

**UN human rights office "concerned by Iran crackdown"**

### ABC NEWS:

**Student protesters in Iran tear-gassed, arrested by police**

### ASSOCIATED PRESS:

**Bipartisan group of senators condemns Iran over Amini death**

### LBC NEWS:

**Iranian women are "harassed for their appearance in public," says correspondent**

### THE GUARDIAN:

**Iran arrests musician as anthem for protest goes viral**

### THE TIMES:

**Students defy Iran's security forces with university protests**

### WASHINGTON POST:

**Protests over Mahsa Amini continue in Iran as crackdown widens**

### CBS NEWS:

**Protests against Iranian government spread**





## RALLY IN NEW YORK DEPLORES THE MASS MURDERER



“What is the regime he represents? His government sent a diplomat with a bomb in a diplomatic pouch to plant it in a peaceful gathering to take out lives. Raisi is the head of that regime. That is the person who just spoke to the General Assembly.

“We gathered because we will never forget what Iran was and we will never stop fighting for what Iran must become. We say to the world, what is right for Ukraine is right for Iran.”



Robert Toricelli and Ukrainian MP and leader of the Voice Party Kira Rudik were among the prominent personalities who addressed the rally in New York on 21st September.

On Wednesday, 21 September, Iranian diaspora organised major protests in New York to denounce the presence of Ebrahim Raisi at the UN General Assembly and called for his prosecution for crimes against humanity and genocide.

As a key member of the “Death Commission” in 1988, Raisi is responsible for the execution of tens of thousands of political prisoners, a heinous act he participated in willingly in order to climb the ladders of power. Thereafter, he continued to serve in the murderous judiciary system of the regime and executed thousands of Iranians until he was handpicked by the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei to lead his regime during the most turbulent times.

Despite international calls and active investigations for prosecuting Raisi for his crimes

against humanity and genocide, he attended the United Nations General Assembly, addressed world leaders, and lectured the international community about freedom, democracy, human rights, and fighting terrorism.

Following months-long activism and tireless efforts, Iranians took part in a rally outside UN headquarters to call out the international community to stand firm against Tehran’s regime, and relayed the cries of their fellow countrymen and women inside the country.

Former United States senator **Robert Toricelli** addressed the participants and said: “Raisi can call himself a president. We call him a murderer. Raisi wasn’t elected. He was chosen. The election was a sham. He’s no president.

Join us for ‘An Hour With ILA’  
Online weekly Zoom meetings

Every Saturday 5pm to 6pm

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