



October 2023

International Liberty Association Newsletter

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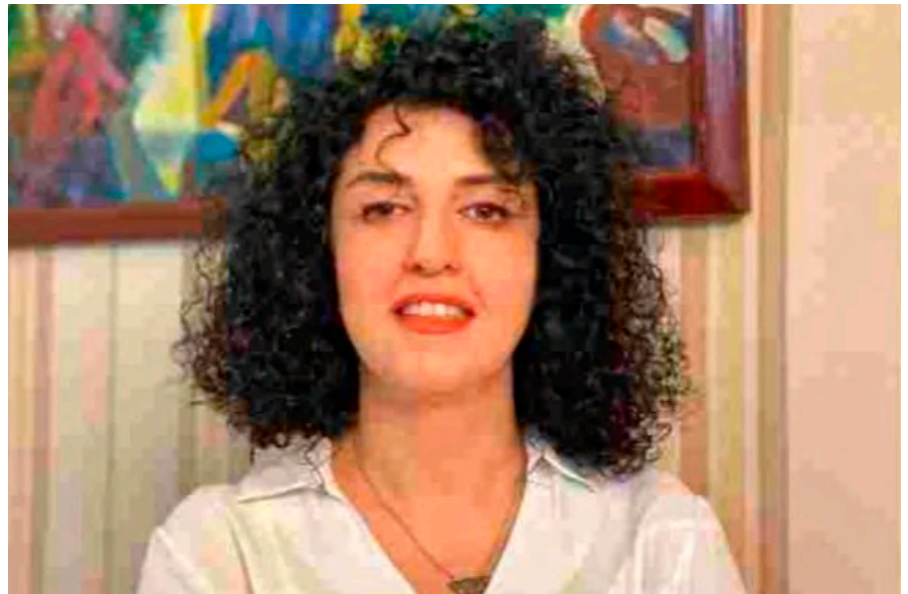
EDITORIAL

In September 2022, the world saw how Iranians were inspired to pay any price for their freedom. Since the uprising, the relentless efforts for the freedom of detainees and political prisoners have continuously brought the issue of human rights violations in Iran to the international stage. Gatherings small and large, legal and advocacy conferences, campaigns for justice for the victims of other ruthless massacres such as 1988 have all contributed to this cause.

The Nobel Committee's attention to the struggle of Iranian women for equality, freedom, social justice, and the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to a political prisoner, Nargess Mohammadi, is a significant achievement and a clear indication of international attention to the issue of human rights violations in Iran. The Iranian regime's official protest to the Nobel Committee reflects the significant international pressure it has been subjected to.

As we approach Christmas and the New Year, we wish to rescue more victims from the suffering of prison and execution through further campaigns. We are confident that every action, small or large, on this path will soon bring an end to the suffering of the Iranian people. A world without executions and without prisoners of conscience will be a more beautiful world.

IRANIAN FEMALE PRISONER WINS THE 2023 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE



A victory for the brave women of Iran. The Norwegian Nobel Committee announced this prize on 6 October 2023 and said **Nargess Mohammadi**, 51, was honoured for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran.

Her struggle has come at a “tremendous personal cost”, committee chair Berit Reiss-Andersen said.

Mohammadi is currently serving a 10-year jail term in Iran's notorious ... *continued on p.2*

OUTRAGE AS EBRAHIM RAISI ADDRESSES THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

When Ebrahim Raisi came to talk to the UN General Assembly, most of the audience left their seats.

Prior to that, a group of US Republican senators had introduced legislation to push the Biden administration to bar Raisi from entering the United States.

However, the US administration ignored all calls



and allowed the man accused of mass murder of political prisoners in 1988 to enter the US and address the General Assembly. Fox News Digital published a report in this regard on ... *continued on p.2*



Iranian female prisoner wins the 2023 Nobel Peace Prize

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Evin prison in the country's capital, Tehran.

Amnesty International called for her immediate release and **US President Joe Biden** too praised her “unshakeable courage” and called on the Iranian government to free her, while **French President Emmanuel Macron** said she was a “freedom fighter”.

The award is a symbolic show of support for the women's rights movement that led the nationwide anti-government protests.

This action highlights the plight of women in Iran, who have been subjugated in the past four decades by the religious government and deprived of their fundamental rights. The regime has arrested, tortured, and executed tens of thousands of Iranian women.

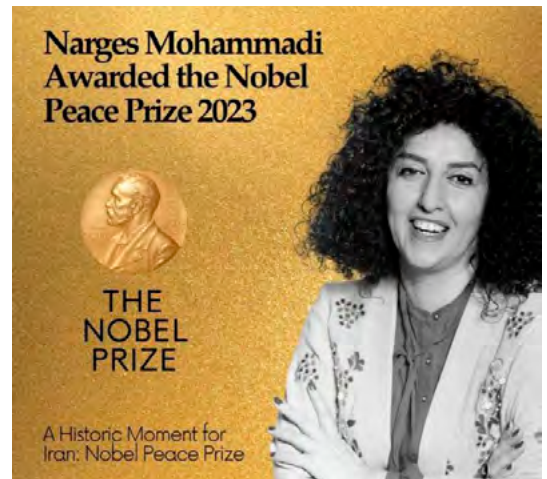
Mrs Maryam Rajavi, President Elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran, also congratulated Ms

Mohammadi on receiving the Nobel prize and urged the international community to intervene and secure her release, along with the release of all the other political prisoners, especially women.

Rajavi reiterated: “Beyond the symbolic gestures, the time has come to adopt a decisive policy against the ruling regime and its oppressive measures against women. The world can no longer deny Iranian women's role in the struggle against the regime. We are facing a generation of women activists in Iran, many of whom are in prison.”

Born 21 April 1972, Mohammadi is an Iranian human rights activist and has been a vocal proponent of women's rights in Iran and a vocal critic of the hijab and chastity programme of 2023.

In May 2016, she was sentenced to 16 years' imprisonment for establishing and running



a human rights campaign for the abolition of the death penalty. She was released in 2020 but sent back to prison in 2021, where she has since given reports of the abuse in solitary confinement of detained women.

In their announcement, the Norwegian committee highlighted the personal sacrifices Mohammadi had made during her fight for justice and freedom including her decision to stay away from her children even when she had the opportunity to join them in exile in France.

Outrage as Ebrahim Raisi addresses the UN General Assembly

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Tuesday 19 September, excerpts of which appear below.

“There's no reason to allow Raisi, ‘the butcher of Iran’, who has the blood of innocent Americans, Iranians and others on his hands, to come to New York to spew his nonsense at the podium... to spin the narrative and tell lies about Iran's egregious human rights records and nuclear weapons ambitions”, **Lisa Daftari**, editor-in-chief of The Foreign Desk, told Fox News Digital.

Daftari, who has written extensively about Iran, noted that by “Allowing him to come onto US soil legitimizes a man who has a long history of wholesale executions, funding global terrorism, and to this moment, continues his



wrath on the peaceful protesters in Iran.”

Soona Samsami, US representative for the Washington office of the **National Council of Resistance of Iran**, whose organisation planned a large Tuesday protest, told Fox News Digital, “At a time when the Iranian people are courageously taking to the streets, demanding

the overthrow of the ruling theocratic regime, it is shameful for [the] United Nations to offer its platform to Ebrahim Raisi, whose transgressions are accentuated by his role on the notorious ‘death commission’ which executed 30,000 political prisoners in 1988 following a fatwa targeting supporters of the main Iranian opposition group.”



FORMER CANADIAN PM: THE PEOPLE OF IRAN [WILL BE] LIBERATED FROM THAT VICIOUS AND EVIL REGIME



At an international conference held in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 September 2023, **Stephen Harper**, former Prime Minister of Canada, was among dozens of distinguished speakers who addressed the event. Honouring the anniversary of Iran's 2022 uprising, Harper touched on the various characteristics of the nationwide uprising and predicted that the people of Iran will eventually be liberated from the evil regime.

Excerpts of former Prime Minister Harper's speech follow:

"Friends, we meet here today to mark roughly one year since the death of one woman, **Mahsa Amini**, set off nationwide protests against the theocratic dictatorship in Iran. Today the regime, and its appeasers in the West, will proclaim that the protests have subsided, never to return. We know the opposite is true. The protests will return, as they have returned before, and each time they return, they are more widespread, more

aggressive, and more enduring than they were before. Just as each time they are more brutally suppressed, with more imprisonment, and with more deaths so that they lay the groundwork for the next round of protests.

And so the cycle of protests and repression returns and returns, but it also escalates and escalates until it ends the only way it can end, with the people of Iran liberated from that vicious and evil regime.

As I said, each time the protests expand, from the city to the countryside, from minority communities to the Persian majority, and this last time from men to women, although in fact, women have long played a leading role in organised resistance to the regime... and they have because Iranian women have long known that their basic human rights depend on the destruction of the regime and its primitive ideology, and its replacement by a free, constitutional, secular, and democratic state.

And friends, the forces exist on the ground in Iran to bring that future into being.

Appeasers have always consistently overestimated the strength of regimes that govern solely by brute force, and consistently underestimated the underlying fragility and inevitable fall of such regimes.

The appeasers have been wrong whenever and wherever they have put such claims forward. But incredibly, in Iran, they were already wrong once before, when they assured us that the Shah's regime was all-powerful and would forever be in control. Just 14 months before that regime fell, US President Jimmy Carter told a state dinner that the Shah and I quote, 'Iran, under your leadership, is an island of stability'.

Almost a year after that, the CIA reiterated that, and again I quote, 'Iran is not in a revolutionary or even pre-revolutionary situation'. Only five months later, the Shah fled the country, and his regime simply evaporated. And friends, as I've said before, if the Shah's regime was vulnerable, how much more vulnerable is the Ayatollah's?"



In the meeting in Brussels, dozens of prominent women, former prime ministers and ministers, spoke about their experiences after seeing the bravery of women leading protests in Iran.



ILA EVENT AT ILEC CONFERENCE CENTRE

The event at the ILEC Conference Centre on 30 September was a successful one and even though it ended up coinciding with railway strikes, many people were able to join us.

Other than the exhibitions, the Persian cuisine and the variety of music, the event was enriched by prominent speakers and vibrant activists. Pictures speak better than words.

However, due to space limitations, we can only cover excerpts of the speech by Irish senator **Gerry Horkan**:



“First of all, ladies and gentlemen, [I] just want to begin by thanking the ILA for this wonderful event here and for inviting me to be amongst you. And I really value and honour the work that they are doing. And I want to thank each and every one of you in the hall in such great numbers. And I only realised today that there’s a train strike, so it’s even more impressive. So many people are here, despite the difficulties in getting here, to stand with the ILA, the International Liberty Association, as they fight for justice, peace and freedom, particularly for the people of Iran.

And I want to discuss today with you a critical and transformative event that shook the very foundations of Iran last year. As we’ve seen in the recent video just there, the nationwide uprising. And this uprising was rooted in a history of struggle for freedom and justice and serves as a powerful testament to the resilience and determination of the Iranian people. It’s a testament to their unyielding spirit which refuses to be silenced in the face of many, many decades of political oppression, economic turmoil and systemic corruption.

This event has had a profound impact on society in Iran, and what we saw was not a sudden eruption of discontent, but rather the culmination of decades of yearning

for freedom. As we saw, it’s not just about the Shah or the dictator in terms of what they want: they want democracy and freedom for themselves and the ability to determine their future path.

The root causes of this uprising run deep: decades of political oppression and economic hardship. Despite the fact that Iran is a wealthy country, the resources are not being distributed to the people. And corruption has eroded the trust between the Iranian people and their government.

Several significant incidents, such as the 2019 protest crackdown, the tragic downing of a Ukrainian passenger plane and the handling of the Covid-19 pandemic have all served as fuel for the flames of anti-regime sentiment.

But it was the appointment of Ebrahim Raisi, a figure known for his role in the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, which some of you would be very familiar with, as president, really further fuelled public dissatisfaction, economic hardship marked by high inflation, widespread unemployment and discrimination against women and minorities particularly, has created a volatile society.

And remarkably, it is women, as we saw in the previous clip, who have played a really pivotal role in driving this uprising. This uprising was a culmination of many decades, over four decades of relentless struggle by Iranian women. And their engagement has cultivated a substantial reservoir of leadership capability right across the country. And the sustainability of this uprising hinges on the volatile societal climate and the influence of the well-organised resistance movement. The regime finds itself trapped now in a strategic quagmire and unable to address public grievances or indeed revert to the status quo.

Before the uprising, even state-affiliated media





controlled by government, often framed within the regime's perspective, inadvertently revealed the mounting pressure within Iranian society, and quotes from these outlets expressed concern about the people's patience, the growing hunger-driven unrest and the unpredictable return of protests.

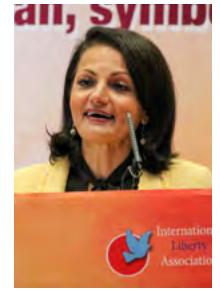
Notably, even members of the regime's parliament have expressed concerns about the potential for social unrest arising from all these crises. The acknowledgement by regime officials and media outlets underscored the regime's inability to effectively address the grievances of the population. The economic challenges, water crisis and societal unrest indicate a precarious situation for the regime with, as we've seen, the potential for widespread upheaval.

This is why, as someone who has been involved in this cause, I support the movement and stand with the people of Iran as they fight for their liberty. I thank you all for standing with the International Liberty Association. It's a great charity and one that deserves our support. And by helping the ILA, we can prevent more lives from being taken away from us and the families of the people in Iran.

I'd like to conclude by saying that the 2022 uprising in Iran was not merely a moment in history. It was a testament to the enduring spirit of a people yearning for freedom, justice and a better future. It serves as a reminder that in the face of adversity, human resolve knows no bounds. The international community, of which we are all a part, must stand in solidarity with the Iranian people as they continue to strive for a brighter tomorrow. And again, just to thank the ILA for the invitation to be here, to thank all of you as supporters of the ILA for all the good work you're doing to help them in what they are doing."



Sir Alan Meale was another speaker at the event



Campaigner Sepideh Orafa & lawyer Azadeh Zabeti were among speakers



Maestros of Persian music Mohammad Shams, Hamid Taherzadeh & Ali Torshizi



Frank Meade and Richard Simmons duet



Emily Masser and her Saxophone Quartet



Elena Xanthoudakis and Mary Banks duet





PROTESTS IN IRAN ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF 2022 UPRISING



On Sunday 17 September 2023, Iran saw widespread confrontations between women and youths in Hamedan, on the one hand, and the regime's brutal IRGC and security forces on the other, with chants of

“down with Khamenei” and “down with the republic of executions”.

The clashes marked the anniversary of the murder of **Mahsa Amini** and the beginning of the nation-wide uprising last year.

In a shocking scene, dozens of security forces surrounded a lone young woman in the street to arrest her.

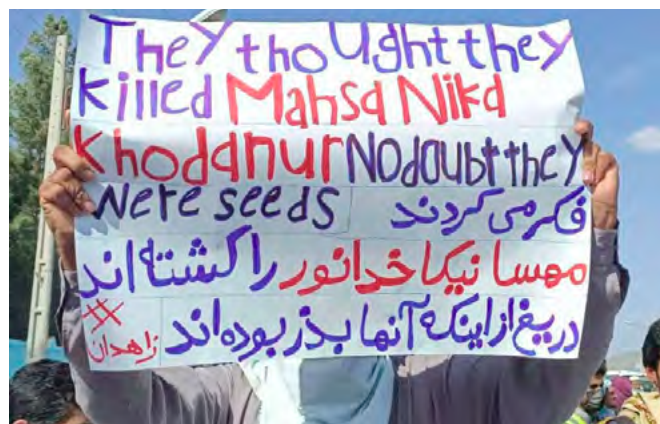
Video footage from the city shows one-on-one clashes between youths and security forces as well as the sound of shooting.

On Saturday 16 September, businesses and shop owners in dozens of cities in Iranian Kurdistan closed their shops and went on strike to mark the anniversary of the uprising.

In Tehran, security forces blocked the streets leading to Enghelab Square. Helicopters were hovering over the city, and security forces shot people with pellet guns.

In Mashhad, anti-riot vehicles were stationed along the streets in huge numbers. Basij mercenaries and plainclothes agents were roaming the streets on motorcycles to create an atmosphere of terror. Nevertheless, many women and youths took to the streets and chanted anti-regime slogans.

Heavy clashes were also reported from Kermanshah between young protesters and security forces, which started at dusk and continued through the night, forcing the repressive forces to retreat.



In Zahedan (south-east Iran), protesters wrote on a banner: “They thought they killed Mahsa, Nika & Khodanur, no doubt they were seeds” (hence growing and growing again).

ARREST OF FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS AND FAMILIES OF ACTIVISTS ON THE EVE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE UPRISING



In recent days and weeks, the mullahs' inhumane regime, in anticipation of the uprising's resurgence, has intensified its campaign of apprehending former political prisoners and families of the activists.

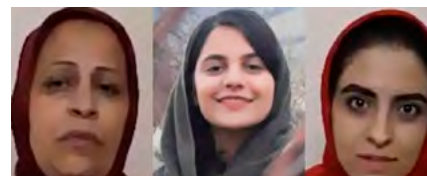
On 13 September security forces arrested **Zahra Safaie** and her daughter **Parastoo Moeini**, both former political prisoners, in Tehran, and transferred them to

ward 209 of Evin Prison.

Zahra Safaie, 61 years old, had been arrested and imprisoned multiple times in the past, most recently in 2019, and was released from prison in February 2023. She suffers from various medical conditions, including severe diabetes, hypertension, and heart problems, receiving ongoing medical treatment and care. She had spent eight years in prison during the 1980s and was re-arrested in 2006.

Parastoo Moeini, 23 years old, was arrested alongside her mother in 2019 and released from prison in February 2023. The regime's judiciary had deprived her of education while she was a univer-

sity student and, after her release, denied her the opportunity to re-enrol in classes.



Zahra Safaie is the daughter of **Hassanali Safaie**, a well-known merchant in Tehran's bazaar and a political prisoner during the Shah's era. He was arrested in 1981 by the brutal agents of Khomeini's regime and was executed that same year.

The United Nations must take immediate action for the release of political prisoners.



NEWS IN BRIEF

OVER 100 JOURNALISTS WERE DETAINED IN IRAN DURING LAST YEAR



The International Federation of Journalists declared that at least 100 journalists have been arrested and imprisoned in Iran in the past year. The report, published in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the death of **Mahsa Amini** in custody, documented instances of press freedom violations and attacks on media professionals operating within the country.

BRUTAL ATTACK ON FEMALE PRISONERS IN QARCHAK PRISON



Agents of the regime carried out a ruthless assault on the vulnerable female inmates in Qarchak Prison, Varamin, on Saturday 16 September. These women had protested against the inhumane conditions prevailing in the prison.

The attackers stormed into the facility, wielding pellet shotguns, and opened fire on prisoners. As a result of this savage attack, at least 20 prisoners were injured. Several inmates were forcibly removed from the general population, placed in solitary confinement and subjected to beatings and mistreatment.

LENGTHY SENTENCES FOR TWO FEMALE JOURNALISTS

The Tehran Court of Appeal upheld the sentences of **Saeedeh Shafiee** and **Nasim Sultan Beigi**, two female journalists who have been sentenced to three years and six months for their alleged

involvement in “assembly and collusion against national security”, and an additional seven months and sixteen days for “propaganda against the regime”. They were imprisoned for their social media posts criticising the compulsory hijab.



DOZENS ARRESTED DURING PROTESTS ON UPRISING ANNIVERSARY



During rallies on the anniversary of Mahsa Amini’s death in custody, the Iranian security apparatus arrested dozens of protesters across the country.

State media in Iran published only scattered reports about the arrests in different cities and did not disclose any details about their identities or the circumstances surrounding their apprehension.

Fahimeh Moradi, the grieving mother of 19-year-old **Yalda Aghafazli**, and **Jaber Najafi**, the father of **Hadis Najafi**, the young girl who was shot dead by live bullets, were among those who were arrested on 16 September.

TWO YEARS OF DETENTION ADDED TO MONFARED’S PROLONGED INCARCERATION



Arrested in 2009, she has not been given a single day off for medical treatment or any other reason, in the past 14 years, yet the inhumane regime is systematically obstructing the release of

Maryam Akbari Monfared, who is approaching the end of her original 15-year sentence. Her prison term has been extended by an additional two years as part of a new, *in-absentia* ruling issued by Branch 101 of Semnan Criminal Court.

The regime’s Ministry of Intelligence has initiated two new cases against Monfared in an attempt to prevent her release. One accuses her of “propaganda against the regime”, while the other alleges “insulting the supreme leader, incitement to riot, spreading falsehoods and disturbing public opinion, inciting people against national security”.



SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF AN IMPRISONED ACTIVIST

While the clerical regime continues to perpetrate new crimes every day in its quest to maintain a climate of fear and terror, its judiciary has reported the death of imprisoned activist **Javad Rouhi** in Noshahr Prison.

According to a statement by the regime-affiliated Mizan News Agency, the prison authorities stated: “Javad Rouhi, a lawfully incarcerated inmate, was transferred to Shahid Beheshti Hospital in Noshahr at 3:45am on Thursday 31 August due to going into convulsions. Unfortunately, despite medical efforts, he did not survive... The deceased’s body has been sent to the forensic medicine department for a complete autopsy and toxicological examinations... Javad Rouhi had been sentenced to execution by the Sari Court, and his case was under review.”

Javad Rouhi, a 35-year-old



resident of Amol, was arrested in November 2022 and subjected to brutal torture in prison, to the extent that he lost his ability to speak. He was sentenced to execution three times on baseless charges of “spreading corruption on earth” and “waging war against God”, yet due to domestic and international protests, the regime could not carry out this sentence. The regime’s judiciary

announced on 10 January 2023, “Javad Rouhi led a group of agitators and individuals present at gatherings, inciting and encouraging citizens to engage in turmoil”.

The ILA calls on the United Nations high commissioner for human rights to condemn the regime and to investigate the circumstances of Javad Rouhi’s death.

**Please join us for our Christmas event at the
ILEC Conference Centre**

**London Suite, 47 Lillie Road, London SW6 1UD
1pm to 6pm Saturday 9 December**

Entrance fee: £10

**Please contact the ILA by email, post, or telephone to book your place
Contact: info@iliberty.org.uk Tel: 020 8452 3481**

