

"I raise up my voice - not so I can shout but so that those without a voice can be heard ... we cannot succeed when half of us are held back." – Malala Yousafzai.

We want to bring to your attention the thousands of brave women and girls who have been challenging the systemic human rights violations committed by the Iranian government against its own people. While opposition to the Iranian regime can be found throughout Iranian society, the most recent protests have been inspired by the brave voices and actions of Iran's women and girls.

The murder of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini by the hijab police ("morality police") on September 6th, 2022, set off a protest wave. Thousands of Iranians have taken to the streets to protest Mahsa Amini's death and are openly challenging the tyrannical Islamic Republic and discriminatory compulsory hijab laws. Hundreds of Iranians have been killed and thousands have been imprisoned since the death of Mahsa Amini. The Iranian government is prosecuting, torturing, raping and murdering women for challenging gender norms and fighting for fundamental freedoms, including choice of dress and bodily autonomy. The extremist regime is also detaining and shooting university students who are protesting. On October 15th, 2022, Evin Prison located in Tehran that holds scores of political prisoners (including some of the most vocal dissidents) was mysteriously set on fire after a series of explosions and automatic gun battles. On October 30th, Dariush Farhoud, an 85-year-old professor of medical and clinical genetics known as the father of genetics in Iran, was abducted by the Iranian government. The renowned scientist had earlier criticized the Islamic Republic for its violation of women's rights. Currently there is no information on his whereabouts.

The nationwide demonstrations lead by courageous Iranian women have rapidly escalated into calls for the overthrow of the establishment that has ruled Iran since its 1979 Islamic revolution.

It is our collective responsibility to speak up for justice and freedom. Seattle University's Human Rights Clinic calls for an end to all forms of gender policing and gender discrimination by the Iranian regime. We ask you to demonstrate solidarity with the Iranian community on campus and Iranian people across the globe by amplifying the voices of Iranians leading these protests. The ground of Iran is full of blood, but we must not let the Iranians also drown in silence.

To learn more about the crisis in Iran and help spread awareness, we offer the following resources:

<https://hub.jhu.edu/2022/10/24/what-is-fueling-the-iran-protests/>

<https://amp.cnn.com/cnn/2022/10/30/middleeast/iran-protests-clashes-sunday-intl/index.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/10/25/iran-evin-prison-fire-protests/>

<https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/iran#>

