

THE FACTS: MAHSA AMINI AND THE PROTESTS IN IRAN

WHAT IS HAPPENING, WHY IT IS HAPPENING AND
HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE

BACKGROUND

Women in Iran have been forced to wear the hijab - head cover, since the Islamic revolution and the early 1980's. The hijab law has been enforced by the country's "morality police" for over four decades, ever since the Islamic revolution.

Iranian women and protesters are in the streets fighting for the choice to wear the hijab or not.

MAHSA AMINI

In mid-September 2022, a 22-year-old Iranian-Kurdish woman named Mahsa Amini was arrested by the morality police in Tehran because she was not wearing her hijab properly.

The morality police detained Amini and, while in their custody, she died. Authorities attributed her sudden death to a heart attack, however CT scans of Amini's body showed that she experienced a brain hemorrhage. [1] Eyewitness accounts, as well as footage and images of Amini after she was arrested also support the more likely explanation that Iran's morality police physically beat Amini while she was detained.



THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND GOVERNMENT CRACKDOWNS:

The arrest and beating to death of a young woman for not wearing her hijab properly has ignited a new found energy and resolve among the people of Iran to speak truth to power. People across Iran have been risking their lives to participate in daily protests against the country's hijab laws. **There have been protests in about 100 Iranian cities across nearly every Iranian province over the past week.**



- Many Iranian women have even publicly removed and then burned their hijabs as part of the protests. Iranian men are walking side by side the women, they are starting the bonfires.
- **The Iranian government has cut off access to the Internet** for most of its 80 million citizens to prevent them — and the world — from watching its violent crackdown on peaceful protestors.
- It is difficult to report on the exact number of casualties, but the Guardian reports that **“at least 41 people have died in unrest sparked by young woman’s death as judiciary warns of ‘decisive action without leniency.’”** The Norway-based group Iran Human Rights (IHR) noted that while the numbers are higher the ongoing internet blackouts are making it increasingly difficult to confirm fatalities.
- **Iranian government has banned social media platforms** including Facebook, Twitter, TikTok, Telegram, as well as WhatsApp, Instagram, and Skype.



"WOMAN, LIFE, FREEDOM"
ZAN, ZENDEGHEE, AZADI

زن زندگی آزادی

-A COMMON CHANT HEARD ACROSS IRAN AND THE GLOBE.

US GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO DATE

- ✓ **President Biden publicly sided with the protesters in his speech to the United Nations last week.**
- ✓ **The US Treasury Department has issued a general license, which authorizes certain transactions which would otherwise be prohibited under sanctions, “to advance our efforts and commitments to ensure that the Iranian people can freely access information online.” [2]**
- ✓ **The Treasury Department has issued sanctions on Iran’s morality police as major protests continue nationwide. [3]**
- ✓ **The Treasury Department is also sanctioning the head of the morality police, Mohammad Rostami Cheshmeh Gachi, and Haj Ahmad Mirzaei, who served as the head of its Tehran division during Amini’s detention and death. [4]**

There is a lot left to be done.

HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE AND ACT

The people of Iran cannot win their freedom without the support and help from the West. Here is what you can do to support the citizens of Iran in their quest for human rights:

- **Sign this petition: Call on the US Government** to suspend its participation in the talks to restore the nuclear deal. [5] Additionally it calls for President Biden to continue the sanctions on the morality police and their leaders.
- **Use social media** to amplify the voices of people in Iran.
 - **Show your support via your own personal posts on all social media platforms** - Make sure to use the hashtags #MahsaAmini, and #IranProtests, and tag major news outlets and celebrities.
 - **Repost footage of protests to all social media platforms** – The Islamic Republic of Iran regime is blocking its citizens' access to the internet. Iranians have to use VPN and other dangerous methods to get content out. When we re-share the videos/photos that do get out, we are helping to amplify the voices of Iranians. They want and need us to help get their stories out and bring to the attention of world leaders.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- [Biden's Support for Iran Protesters Comes After Bitter Lessons of 2009](#)
- [Bonfire of the Headscarves](#)
- [Briefing with Senior Administration Officials on the Administration's Efforts to Advance the Free Flow of Information For the Iranian People](#)
- [How protests in Iran over Mahsa Amini's death 'forever moved the debate' over women's rights](#)
- ["She was tortured": Mahsa Amini's family speaks out amid Iran protests](#)