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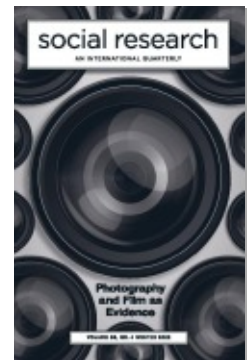
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## Endangered Scholars Worldwide

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# Endangered Scholars Worldwide

Attacks on higher education communities are occurring at an alarming rate worldwide, threatening the safety and well-being of scholars, students, and academic staff, as well as the autonomy of higher education institutions. In response to a global increase in threats to academic freedom, Endangered Scholars Worldwide has expanded its presence as an online publication, sharing frequent updates on new and developing cases.

While we continue to publish regular updates in *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, our primary activity now takes place under the auspices of the New University in Exile Consortium, [www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org](http://www.newuniversityinexileconsortium.org). The Consortium was launched in the fall of 2018 at the New School to create a supportive intellectual community for threatened, exiled scholars. It works to help them identify possible path toward new futures and find placements at Consortium schools, of which there are now over 60 worldwide.

For the most current information and ways in which you can be involved in our efforts to defend academic freedom and free expression, we invite you to visit our website [www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net](http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net) or follow us at <https://twitter.com/ESWNEWSCHOOL>.

If you are aware of a scholar or student whose case you believe we should investigate, please get in touch with us at [esw@newschool.edu](mailto:esw@newschool.edu).

Thank you for your unwavering support.




## SPECIAL DELIVERY

The year 2022 has been another bad year for academic freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. The global escalation of violent, antidemocratic political tendencies has continued to target and harm scholars, researchers, and students. In the first half of 2022, authoritarian tendencies continued apace with new military conflicts and refugee crises. According to the Academic Freedom Index global dataset, 80 percent of the world's population currently lives in a country that in practice restricts academic freedom.

While Afghanistan remains the most dangerous place for scholars and students, the countrywide protests in Iran, initiated and mostly led by female students—and now supported by a wide range of other marginalized and oppressed groups, such as ethnic minorities, workers, and even the elderly—deserve special attention. As the resounding anti-government protests that started in the wake of Mahsa (Zhin) Amini's murder in September by the country's notorious Guidance Patrol, also known as morality police, enter their fourth month, the Iranian government has started issuing death sentences for protesters, in addition to deploying heavy weapons and helicopters to break down the countrywide resistance. As of November 17, the Islamic Revolutionary Court issued the first death sentences to five protesters on charges of *moharebeh* (enmity against God) through arson of a government building and *efsad-fil-arz* (corruption on earth). Manouchehr Mehman Navaz and Mohammad Boroughani are among those who have been tried for charges of *moharebeh* and sentenced to death. According to Amnesty International, 21 more detainees have been charged with offenses punishable by death, while indictments have been issued against 11 others, including a woman, on charges of *efsad-fil-arz*.


From September 16 to November 18, at least 1,281 of 1,413 protests were led by women, while university campuses have been primary sites of conflict, especially in large cities like Tehran, Shiraz, and Isfahan. Hundreds of Iranian students, who came together in mixed-gender protests chanting “Women, Life, Freedom,” have been detained and tortured. The Iranian government has also breached international



human rights laws and conventions that guarantee impartial humanitarian aid. It has been reported by various international human rights organizations that the Iranian security forces used ambulances to infiltrate demonstrations, enter university campuses, and detain protesters. Video footage and witness accounts from a protest at Sharif University of Technology in Tehran in late October epitomizes this illegitimate and illegal practice of the Islamic regime. An unnamed university student depicted how security forces used ambulances to detain protesters: “They grabbed people... [and] put them in the ambulance, turned off the lights. There were lots of people in the back.... I didn’t see where they dropped off the people, but I saw that there were normal people inside, like young girls.” Sexual harassment and violence against the female detainees have also been widely reported.

Security forces have also raided high schools, detained underage students, and sent them to psychological centers to “educate and amend” their behavior. According to Education Minister Yousef Nouri, “the pupils had been sent to the camps ... to prevent them from turning into ‘anti-social people.’” Nouri also stated that these children can go back to their normal life, families, and school once they are “reformed.” The centers function as detention facilities for those who fail to comply with the state’s rules on modesty and obedience. Inside the facilities, detainees are given classes about Islam and then forced to sign a pledge to abide by the state’s regulations before they are released. While the number of those who were sent to reeducation camps is unclear, at least 15,000 people have been arrested since September, and, according to Iran Human Rights, at least 448 people, including 60 children and 29 women, were killed during the protests in 25 of the country’s 31 provinces.

In many ways, Amini’s death was the final straw in decades-long discretionary violence and discrimination targeting women and young girls. Systematic discrimination and human rights violations have inspired myriad struggles for equality through education, public awareness, lobbying, civil society initiatives, petition campaigns, legal efforts, traditional and social media outlets, as well as through



their active participation in previous rounds of protests and political unrest, despite the threat of violence, imprisonment, and even death. Protesters in Iran demand an end to decades-long theocratic rule and the systematic gender apartheid it has imposed upon the female half of the population. Under the country's misogynist constitution, women are second-class citizens, whose freedom of education, association, work, and movement depends on the unilateral approval of the patriarch. However, as numerous NGO reports demonstrated, the current president, Ebrahim Raisi, has taken the repressive, misogynist measures to new levels. Earlier in September, before Amini's unfortunate death, the Headquarters for Enjoining Good and Forbidding Evil had announced the detention of 300 women, including university students, who were allegedly heads of networks committed to defying and taking down the Islamic regime's gender apartheid.

Endangered Scholars Worldwide stands in solidarity with those who strive for freedom and safety across the world and now especially with the protesters in Iran. We condemn the Iranian government's systematic and recurrent breaches of international human rights law and the ill-treatment of protesters, as well as the hostage-taking practices targeting foreign or dual nationals to obtain diplomatic leverage. We call upon all international organizations and academic and professional associations devoted to the promotion and defense of human rights to join us in urging the Iranian government to end this ideologically motivated and inhumane crackdown on university campuses, disproportionately targeting women and young girls. We ask that the international community continue to pay close attention to the situation in Iran and to make all efforts to get the Iranian government to honor their obligations under international humanitarian law and human rights treaties, including ensuring free and unhindered humanitarian access to people in need and the revoking of the death sentences that have been issued following illegitimate trials.

Visit [www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net](http://www.endangeredscholarsworldwide.net) for more information.

—By *Dolunay Bulut*