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Iran judiciary files new hijab case against released journalists

🕒 2 hours ago

2022 Iran protests



Iran's judiciary said footage of Elaheh Mohammadi and Niloufar Hamedei "without hijab was released online". The two women are pictured here after their release from Evin prison on Sunday.

By David Gritten

BBC News

Iran's judiciary says it has opened a new case against two female journalists for appearing without the compulsory hijab upon their release from prison.

Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi were pictured with their hair uncovered after 17 months in detention.

They helped break the story of Mahsa Amini's death in 2022, which sparked mass protests against the hijab laws.

In October, they were jailed for seven and six years respectively on national security charges, which they denied.

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Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned their trials as a sham, saying their lawyers were notified of hearings at the last minute, given only a few hours to examine case files, and not allowed to address the judge.

A court approved the women's release on bail of 10bn tomans (\$193,000 at the open market rate) on Sunday while they appealed against the sentences.

The decision was celebrated by the newspapers which employ Ms Hamedei and Ms Mohammadi, and many Iranians online, with many sharing pictures of them outside Tehran's Evin prison.

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Iranian media reported in August that authorities had questioned or arrested more than 90 journalists since protests erupted in response to the death in custody of Mahsa Amini, a young woman who was detained by morality police in September 2022 for allegedly wearing her hijab "improperly".

Ms Hamedei, a journalist with the Sharq newspaper, photographed Mahsa Amini's father and grandmother hugging each other in hospital after learning that she had died after three days in a coma. She posted it on Twitter with the caption: "The black dress of mourning has become our national flag."

Ms Mohammadi, a reporter with the Hammihan newspaper, published a story about Ms Amini's funeral in her hometown of Saqqez. She described how hundreds of mourners cried out "Woman, life, freedom", which became one of the main slogans of the protests.

They were arrested weeks later and subsequently accused of "collaborating with the hostile US government" and "propaganda against the establishment". They rejected the charges, insisting that they were just doing their jobs.

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JOURNALISM IS NOT A CRIME

Iranian Journalists Jailed over Amini Coverage Released on Bail

JANUARY 15, 2024

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📷 Niloofar Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi were granted temporary release on \$200,000 bail pending an appeal of their sentences, the

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Two Iranian women journalists jailed for their coverage of the September 2022 death in custody of Mahsa Amini were released on January 14 after spending nearly a year and a half behind bars.

Niloofar Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi were granted temporary release on \$200,000 bail pending an appeal of their sentences, the judiciary said.



The Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced Mohammadi and Hamedi in October to 12 and 13 years in prison, respectively, on charges including collaborating with the US government, colluding to commit crimes against national security, and engaging in propaganda activities against the Islamic Republic.

On January 15, the main pages of Hamamihan and Shargh newspapers, where the journalists were working before their arrests, featured photographs capturing the moment Mohammadi and Hamidi were released from prison.

The papers ran headlines proclaiming "The Good Day of Freedom" and "Niloofar and Elahe have arrived."

While welcoming their temporary release, the Journalist Association of Tehran province voiced criticism against the hefty bail imposed on the journalists.

In a statement, the association expressed hope that the severe sentences handed down to them will be overturned on appeal.

Mahsa Amini's father, Amjad, congratulated Mohammadi and Hamedi, saying, "The news of your release, after 400 days of suffering in prison and being away from your family, brought joy to all of us."

Iran's former crown prince, Reza Pahlavi, an exiled opposition figure, called for the release of all political prisoners.

"I welcome the release of two courageous journalists, Mrs. Niloofar Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi, after 16 months of unjust imprisonment, extend my congratulations to their families, and express my hopes for the release of all political prisoners held captive by the regime," he wrote on the social media platform X.

Sherif Mansour of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists said that the two journalists' convictions "are a travesty and serve as a stark testament to the erosion of freedom of speech and the desperate attempts of the Iranian government to criminalize journalism."

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Women Are Force for Change

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Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi accused of "collaborating with the US hostile government"

Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi accused of "collaborating with the US hostile government"

August 1, 2023 in Women's News

The spokesman of the Iranian Judiciary, Massoud Setayeshi, told reporters today, August 1, 2023, "The accusation of two journalists, Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi, has nothing to do with the report on the death of Ms. Mahsa Amini and their journalistic career. The two defendants had cooperated with the US hostile government at times."

Massoud Setayeshi said, "On July 26, 2023, the defendants' last defense was taken in court, and the defendant's lawyers asked for a three-day opportunity to present their defense bill. They presented the bill to the court on Saturday, July 30, and the verdict is being drafted." (The state-run Entekhab newspaper, August 1, 2023)

The Judiciary's spokesman had [previously listed the charges](#) against Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi as "collaborating with hostile governments, participating in a collusion against national security, and engaging in propaganda against the state." (The state-run Mizan news agency, April 26, 2023)

[Niloufar Hamedei](#), a photojournalist for Shargh newspaper, took and published the first photo of [Mahsa Amini](#) in a coma at the hospital. Elaheh

HOME NEWS PUBLICATIONS ABOUT US MARYAM RAJAVI VANGUARDS EVENTS VIDEOS PODCAST DONATE

Niloufar Hamedei was arrested by security forces at her home on September 22, 2022, and was transferred to Evin prison. In late December 2022, [redacted] Facebook in.

Elaheh Mohammadi was [Share on Twitter](#) forces in Tehran on September 23, 2022, and was transferred to [Qarchak prison](#) in Varamin.



Nazila Maroofian, a 23-year-old journalist, is summoned to Evin Courthouse

Nazila Maroofian arraigned on her charges

Nazila Maroofian, a 23-year-old journalist from [Saqqez](#), was arraigned on her charges today, August 1, 2023, by the second branch of the Evin Prosecutor's Office. Her charges are "propaganda against the state" and "assembly and collusion against national security." In the same session, the last defense was taken from her.

Nazila Maroofian, a student at Tehran's Allameh Tabatabai University and a young journalist for Rouydad 24, was arrested on October 30, 2022, by order of the Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office based in Evin Prison in Tehran.

She was arrested for publishing her interviews with the father of Mahsa Amini on the Rouydad 24 website in October and November 2022. She was confined in Ward 209 of Evin. She was eventually transferred to [Qarchak Prison](#) and released on bail after a while.

She was jailed after [reporting to the first branch of Evin Courthouse](#) on Saturday, July 8, 2023.

On Tuesday, July 4, 2023, the Ministry of Intelligence agents searched her house. They confiscated some of her digital devices, including her mobile phone and laptop.

Branch 26 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran sentenced Nazila Maroofian to two years and other supplementary punishments in February 2023. The prison sentence for Ms. Maroofian was suspended for five years.

On June 20, 2023, agents of the SSF Special Units badly brutalized her in Tehran's City Theatre and dragged her to the ground.

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Branch 26 of the Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced two journalists to 8 years and six months in prison. Saeedeh Shafiei and Nasim Sultan Beigi were each sentenced to...

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VOA NEWS ON IRAN

Rights Group: Iran Leaves 2 Journalists in Legal Limbo to Avoid Global Spotlight

July 09, 2023 3:03 AM Michael Lipin



A man holds a copy of the Ham-Mihan newspaper in the Iranian capital, Tehran, Oct. 30, 2022. The newspaper features a story on the detention of journalists Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi on the cover.

WASHINGTON – A U.S. media rights group says Iran has kept two jailed female journalists in legal limbo for more than a month after their trials began as a ploy to make global attention fade as it figures out what to do with the women whose detentions sparked outrage in the West.

Elaheh Mohammadi and Niloufar Hamedei were taken to Tehran's Revolutionary Court on May 29 and 30 respectively for the first sessions of their closed-door trials. Since then, there has been no word from Iranian officials or relatives and lawyers of the two women on when or whether the reporters will have a second trial session at the court.

Iranian authorities jailed Hamedei and Mohammadi last September for their coverage of the death and funeral of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurdish woman whom Tehran police arrested that month for allegedly not following Iran's strict Islamic dress code. Amini's death in police custody within days of her arrest triggered months of nationwide protests against Iran's ruling Islamist clerics.

Hamedei had photographed Amini's distraught parents embracing inside the Tehran hospital where Amini died after falling into a coma, while Mohammadi covered and wrote about Amini's funeral in the northwestern city of Saqqez. Both reporters were working for Iranian state approved news outlets.

Yashar Ali  
@yashar · [Follow](#)



What landed Niloofer in solitary confinement was this heartbreaking photo of Mahsa Zhina Amini's parents hugging in the hallway of the hospital.

She tweeted this photo and god only knows what they're doing to her now.

[#MahsaAmini](#) [#ZhinaAmini](#)



Yashar Ali   @yashar

Iranian journalist who broke news on Mahsa Zhina Amini pays heavy price.

Niloofer Hamedi is being held in solitary confinement without charges.

[#MahsaAmini](#) [#ZhinaAmini](#) reuters.com/world/middle-e...

6:38 PM · Oct 11, 2022



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Iranian intelligence agencies issued a joint statement in October accusing Hamedi and Mohammadi of being agents of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, or CIA. Iranian authorities later charged them with being collaborators of a "hostile" United States, acting against national security and spreading anti-government propaganda.

The U.S. State Department denounced what it called May's "sham" trials as a "mockery of justice." In a June 1 [tweet](#), U.S. Special Envoy for Iran Robert Malley wrote: "Journalism is not a crime. Iranian authorities should stop jailing journalists like Elaheh and Niloufar simply for doing their jobs."

Addressing the U.N. Human Rights Council on Wednesday, the chairperson of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Iran, Sara Hossein, said the two women were among at least 17 journalists in the country "remaining in detention ... for their alleged reporting on the protests."

Yeganeh Rezaian, a senior researcher with the U.S.-based Committee to Protect Journalists, discussed the legal limbo of Hamedei and Mohammadi in this week's edition of VOA's Flashpoint Iran podcast.



FLASHPOINT IRAN: W...

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The following transcript of Rezaian's June 28 interview has been edited for brevity and clarity.

VOA: What do you know about the status of Iran's legal proceedings against the two female journalists?

Yeganeh Rezaian, Committee to Protect Journalists: It seems as if the regime is trying to keep them in a limbo situation. One speculation, which has been reoccurring in that system, is that once a political prisoner becomes high profile, usually the regime likes to keep them in that limbo and extend their imprisonment, hoping that at some point, they will be forgotten in the world. And once their name is not out there anymore, the regime can, in a face-saving way, let them out, or give them a sham trial and sentence and quietly let them serve a bit of their sentence.

But the truth is that these two female journalists are innocent. They did not do anything wrong, except report the truth and inform not just their domestic society but also the international community. And they are paying the price for doing their job truthfully.

The world is not going to forget about them. The longer they stay in the dungeon, the more their names will be spread out.

VOA: How much awareness do Iranian officials have about the big network of international support that these two women have? Are you aware that messages from CPJ and other rights groups are getting through to Tehran?

Rezaian: Absolutely, because the regime has an expansive cyber army. And their first and foremost job is monitoring any news about the country that is out in the international arena. So they know exactly what awards these women have been nominated for and what organization is issuing statements in their support. I promise you, based on personal experience, and also on our work with previous cases, that the regime is monitoring how the world is reacting.

VOA: How has the international support for Mohammadi and Hamedei impacted their treatment by the Iranian government?

Rezaian: The support has already resulted in the fact that they dropped the charges of espionage, which could have been punishable by execution; the fact that they realize that they do not have any supporting documents for proving such a farce of a charge; and also the fact that they do not know how to deal with the cases.

One of the reasons that political cases often get extended is because the officials themselves are not sure about how to deal with them.

If [Hamedi and Mohammadi] were dual citizens, [the regime] would be looking to either ask for money or a prisoner swap [in return for their release]. But these women are just two local journalists working for state-run media. Technically, they went through all kinds of background checks within the system. So [the regime] cannot say they are spies. They are not.

VOA: How do you see the Iranian government treating its own state-approved journalists going forward?

Rezaian: The truth is that Iran's media scene has been terrible since the regime came to power. They have in many cases throughout the years treated the media, and domestic journalists in particular, very brutally and harshly. That is why so many journalists are emigrating and going to self-imposed exiles. They know that as long as they are inside the country, they will not be able to do their jobs freely and safely. Those who decide to stay know they will be silenced by arrest and long-term detention and harsh sentences.

Obviously, very silently and slowly killing traditional journalism is what the regime is looking for. They would love to see more and more people leave this profession, and to see those who think differently than the regime go silent and do other things. This is not a new phenomenon, but with all the ways that the regime is treating journalists, it has been sped up.

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Iranian journalists Niloofar Hamedi and Elaheh Mohammadi have been awarded WAN-IFRA's 2023 Golden Pen of Freedom

2023-06-28. The two Iranian journalists were instrumental in publicising news about Mahsa Amini's death while in police custody, as well as the nationwide protests that followed. Now, they're being held in Tehran's Evin Prison.



Tehran, Iran. 17th Aug, 2022. Journalists Niloofar Hamedi (l) and Elaheh Mohammadi (r). Credit: Mehrdad Aladin/dpa/Alamy Live News

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By *Colette Davidson*

On 13 September 2022, 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian Mahsa Amini was arrested by Iran's morality police for allegedly wearing her veil improperly. She was taken into police custody and fell into a coma under suspicious circumstances. Three days later, Amini died in a Tehran hospital.

Amini's death set off some of the largest demonstrations to hit Iran in years, with thousands taking to the streets in honour of women's rights and in protest against Iran's repressive regime. Through it all, two journalists – Niloofar Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi – shared Amini's story with the world, showing their commitment to freedom of the press, equality, and justice.

Hamedi was one of the first journalists to break the story about Amini, after she visited her in Tehran's Kasra hospital while Amini was still alive and in a coma. Hamedi published a photo of Amini's parents hugging in the hospital, which rapidly spread online. But on 22 September, authorities raided Hamedi's home and arrested her based on her reporting.

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Mohammadi was arrested on her way to the police station on 29 September.

Now, both women remain in a high-security cellblock in Tehran's notorious Evin Prison. The Iranian Ministry of Intelligence and the intelligence agency of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard have accused Hamed and Mohammadi of planning to orchestrate nationwide protests with their reporting, and have charged them with national security crimes – charges that carry the possibility of the death sentence.

After eight months in custody, the trials of Hamed and Mohammadi began on 29 and 30 May. But according to their families, neither of the two journalists had been given access to their case files ahead of the trial, and Hamed's husband said in a tweet that they had not been allowed to speak to their lawyer less than a week before the trial was set to begin.

"We're calling for their immediate acquittal and release," says Hadi Ghaemi, Executive Director of the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran. "Because they covered mass events in real time, [the Iranian authorities] are making it sound like they coordinated to incite protests, but they didn't instigate anything. They were just doing their jobs as journalists."

Hamed and Mohammadi have become symbols of Iran's protest movement, which has continued since Amini's death. The Iranian government has detained more than 20,000 protesters in recent riots, according to the non-profit Human Rights Activists in Iran, as people continue to stand up for women's rights in the face of Iran's conservative government.

Iran is one of the most dangerous places in the world to be a journalist, especially for women journalists, with a ranking of 177 out of 180 in Reporters Without Borders's World Press Freedom Index.

Prior to her arrest, Mohammadi – a reporter for the daily newspaper Hammihan – was sued by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in April 2020 for "spreading lies to disturb the public mind." The charge came as a result of her reporting on the conditions of women in Qarchak Prison during the Covid-19 pandemic as well as protests following the downing of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752 in January 2020 by the IRGC. She was banned from writing in the media for one year.

Hamed was working for the reformist daily newspaper Shargh before she was arrested, and is known for her coverage of women in Iran. Hamed is one of the first journalists to have interviewed the family and lawyer of imprisoned writer Sepideh Rashnu, and subsequently published an investigative report on the case.

In addition to their Golden Pen award, the two journalists have been recognised elsewhere for their courage and bravery in reporting. On 2 May, they were awarded the 2023 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize and were included in Time magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in 2023.

"Elahe and Niloufar are indeed deserving of this recognition," says Ghaemi, of the Center for Human Rights in Iran. "It gives them international recognition and helps to signify their unjust detention."

WAN-IFRA External Contributor

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The trial of Nilufar Hamedei and Elaha Mohammadi is the trial of the journalism profession and the acceptance of the criminalization of journalism in Iran.

In the current situation, when the association of journalists affiliated with the reform movement, instead of asking for the unconditional release of these journalists, has requested a public trial and a soft punishment for them, it is necessary to speak against such a demand for the unconditional release of these journalists. He defended whether this trial is public or not. It should not be an issue at all, because the trial of journalists for the crime of carrying out their journalistic mission is not accepted under any circumstances and must be opposed.

In the current situation, when the association of journalists affiliated with the reform movement, instead of asking for the unconditional release of these journalists, has requested a public trial and a soft punishment for them, it is necessary to speak against such a demand for the unconditional release of these journalists. He defended whether this trial is public or not. It should not be an issue at all, because the trial of journalists for the crime of carrying out their journalistic mission is not accepted under any circumstances and must be opposed.

For a free and prosperous Iran and the establishment of democracy in it, the freedom of the media and journalists must be defended. Information and free circulation of information will lead to people's awareness and anti-oppression, ensuring democracy, limiting government power and holding it accountable.



Niloufar Hamedei and Elahe Mohammadi, journalists accused of reporting on Mahsa Amini

Two Female Iranian Journalists Face 'Sham Trial', Watchdog Says

Thursday, 06/01/2023 3 minutes

Author: Maryam Sinaee

Iran Protests

Human Rights



Reporters Without Borders (RSF) condemned the trials of Niloofar Hamedei and Elahe Mohammadi who first reported the death in custody of Mahsa Amini in September.

Calling the trials "sham" **in a statement Tuesday**, RSF said the two journalists who have been in detention since a few days after Amini's death should be



and conspiracy to commit acts against national security, which could bear death sentences.

"The fact that Niloofar Hamedei and Elahe Mohammadi were unable to see their lawyers, even a few days before their trials, confirms that this is travesty of justice whose sole aim is to legitimise the persecution of these two journalists. We demand their immediate release," Jonathan Dagher, head of RSF's Middle East desk, said.

In a tweet Tuesday, RSF also said banning the lawyers of the two journalists from speaking at their hearings was "further proof of the judicial farce against

the two journalists.”

Hamedi, managed to visit Mahsa Amini in Tehran's Kasra hospital and broke the news of her grave condition after being taken into the custody of the morality police three days earlier for wearing her hijab “improperly”. Amini was in a coma at the time.

Mohammadi, likewise, managed to travel to Amini's hometown of Saqqez in western Iran to report on her funeral, September 17, which thousands attended.

The lawyers for Niloofar Hamedi, a reporter of the reformist Shargh daily, and Elahe Mohammadi, of the reformist Ham-Mihan newspaper, were banned from speaking at the 1st hearings.” **RSF tweeted Tuesday.**

Imprisoned journalists Niloofar Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi pictured on the front page of the newspaper «Ham-Mihan» on October 30, 2022

The first session of Mohammadi's trial presided by the notorious judge Abolghasem Salavati was held behind closed doors at Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court of Tehran on Monday. Hamedi's hearing was held on Tuesday by the same judge and in the same manner. Lawyers of the two journalists were not allowed to speak.

Hamedi's husband, Mohammad-Hossein Ajorlou who is a sports journalist himself, in a series of tweets Tuesday confirmed that Hamedi's lawyer had not been given an opportunity to speak and said family members, including himself, were not allowed in the courtroom. According to Ajorlou's tweet the date for the next hearing has not been set.

The Telegram channel of the **ultrardliner Raja News claimed** that “anti-Iranian media” are trying to “reduce” the arrest of the two journalists to their coverage of Mahsa Amini's death.

“But reliable information indicates that Niloofar Hamedi and Elahe Mohammadi had participated in training courses of institutions that seek the overthrow [of the Islamic Republic] and had connections with foreign intelligence services,” Raja News which is affiliated to the ultraconservative Paydari Front wrote.

In October, Iran's intelligence ministry and SAS, the intelligence organization of the Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) accused Mohammadi and Hamedei of being CIA agents. "Using the cover of a journalist, she was one of the first people who arrived at the hospital and provoked the relatives of the deceased and published targeted news," **they said in a joint statement.**

Reformist politician Abbas Abdi

Abbas Abdi, a reform bloke politician **said in a May 23 tweet** that the government twists charges against dissidents to avoid open trials and demanded that the two journalists be tried publicly according to article 165 of the Iranian Constitution.

The Iranian Constitution stipulates that trials of political prisoners and journalists should be public and with the presence of a jury.

Iran Protests



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A processo le due giornaliste iraniane che hanno raccontato la storia di Mahsa Amini

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I loro articoli hanno infiammato le strade dell'Iran dando vita al movimento ormai noto in tutto il mondo "Donna, Vita, Libertà". Ora è cominciato il processo e rischiano l'ergastolo

di SIMONA SIRIANNI



Niloofar Hamedì e Elahe Mohammadi sono le due giornaliste iraniane arrestate a Teheran che **rischiano la pena di morte**. La loro colpa è quella di aver raccontato la storia di **Mahsa Amini**, la ragazza arrestata perché indossava male l'hijab, morta poi in ospedale per le percosse della polizia morale.

Iran, le donne tra passato e futuro

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Hamedì e Mohammadi, le giornaliste iraniane che rischiano la pena di morte

I loro articoli hanno infiammato le strade dell'Iran facendo **scoppiare manifestazioni in oltre 140 città**. E hanno dato vita al movimento ormai noto in tutto il mondo come **"Donna, Vita, Libertà"** un antico slogan del movimento femminista curdo. Hamedì e Mohammadi, neanche a dirlo, **sono state arrestate pochi giorni dopo** la pubblicazione dei loro reportage e sono in carcere.

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Inizia il processo

Ora, dopo otto mesi, ha avuto inizio il loro processo nel Tribunale della Rivoluzione di Teheran che avverrà separatamente. **Le accuse erano le stesse per tutte e due**: pubblicazione di notizie che hanno messo a rischio la sicurezza dello Stato, propaganda contro il regime e collaborazione con governi ostili.





Niloufar Hamedei e Elahe Mohammadi le due giornaliste arrestate e a processo per aver raccontato al mondo la storia di Mahsa Amini (Photo by Christina ASSI / AFP) (Photo by CHRISTINA ASSI/AFP via Getty Images)

Gli avvocati della difesa non possono parlare

Non che sia successo nulla che non ci si potesse aspettare: a raccontare su Twitter l'udienza «conclusa in meno di due ore **senza che i suoi avvocati abbiano avuto la possibilità di difenderla**», il marito di Hamedei, Mohammad Hossein Ajorlou.

«Niloufar ha ripetuto di aver svolto il suo dovere di giornalista in base alla legge e di non aver mai compiuto nessun atto contro la sicurezza nazionale, **negando tutte le accuse contro di lei**» ha aggiunto.

LEGGI ANCHE

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L'accusa per le giornaliste iraniane: sono agenti della Cia

Mohammadi è comparsa invece davanti alle sezione 15 del tribunale rivoluzionario di Teheran, quella presieduta dal famigerato giudice **Abolqasem Salavati** noto anche come il **“giudice delle impiccagioni”** per l'inquietante record di sentenze di morte comminate.

Anche in questo caso l'avvocato della giornalista, come racconta lui stesso al giornale, **non ha avuto modo di difenderla perché non gli è stato permesso di parlare**. Per il ministero dell'intelligence le due donne sarebbero agenti stranieri della Cia, un'accusa spesso arbitraria che viene mossa a moltissimi giornalisti e dissidenti in Iran.

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Niloofer Hamed and Elaheh Mohammadi



Christina Assi—AFP/Getty Images

BY JASON REZAIAN
APRIL 13, 2023 6:32 AM EDT

Mahsa Amini—arrested in Tehran and charged with not covering her hair properly—left the police station barely alive. This kind of brutality happens in Iran, but we rarely hear the details. Victims and their families suffer in silence for fear of inviting even more abuse.

This time was different. A reporter named Niloofer Hamed broke the story, publishing photographs of Amini lying brain-dead in the hospital, and devastated family members embracing in the hall. Elaheh Mohammadi covered the funeral, which doubled as a protest that soon spread across Iran. It was the kind of journalism that earns accolades in any normal society.

Hamed and Mohammadi have instead been rewarded with excruciating limbo. They were arrested and remain in Evin Prison. The charges—conspiring with the intelligence agencies of foreign powers to undermine Iran's national security—are as farcical as they are severe.

Journalism has been dying a slow death in Iran. Brave domestic reporters are the lone reason its light still flickers. The arrests of Hamed and Mohammadi—and of nearly 100 other journalists since the protests started—show how far the regime will go to extinguish it.

Rezaian is a Washington Post writer who was imprisoned by Iran for 544 days

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Details of the trial of reporter Khatam Mahsa Amini

June ۹, ۱۴۰۲ at ۹:۲۲

The first hearing of the journalist's case was held in private without the presence of his family.

One spring morning, a green van with tinted windows and a passenger drove from the mountains north of Tehran towards Moalem Street. The morning of June ۸, ۱۴۰۲. The only passenger in the green van was a skinny woman who was supposed to go down from the Evin hills, reach the Modares or Chamran highway, go through the curves of the streets, look out the window at the last days of spring in Tehran, and then reach the street. Teacher, Revolutionary Court

The only passenger in that green van with tinted windows was a female reporter; A woman who, after eight months of temporary detention, moved between Ward ۲۰۹ of Evin Prison, Ward ۸ of Qarchak Prison and the Women's Ward of Evin Prison, was tried yesterday in Branch ۱۵ of the Revolutionary Court presided over by Judge Abolqasem Salvati. The only passenger in that green van with tinted windows was Elahe Mohammadi, a reporter for the community group of Hamemehan newspaper

It was not yet ۱۰ in the morning when the green van turned from Moalem street to Salimi street and its only passenger saw a large number of journalists, civil activists, friends and family members under the scorching June sun with beads of sweat on their foreheads. The light was shining, with worried and waiting eyes, they were hoping to see a reporter who, just eight months after his arrest, is going to the first court hearing on his charges, a

historic trial for a journalist; The accusations that were announced on April ۲۸ by the spokesperson of the Judiciary: "Collaboration with the hostile government of America, gathering and colluding to commit crimes against the country's security and propaganda
"against the regime

Those who came to the Revolution Court yesterday to accompany the family of Elaha Mohammadi and give her strength of heart, still hoped to be able to accompany her parents, wife and sisters to the court and then wait until the hearing is over and there is no news about it. but the judge's decision was something else. The official of Judge Salavati's office announced to Elaha's family that the court will be closed to the public and only journalists from the Judiciary website will be present. That's why, when the green van with its only passenger, a female journalist, arrived at the parking lot of Tehran's Revolutionary Court, Omid, who, like most of the days of the past eight months, had taken his way and
left, quickly filled up

But a short meeting with the goddess was possible behind the smoked windows of the green van; that small apertures of light always find a way to show off. Friends and journalists, family and civil activists saw him and wished him success in the few seconds until the parking lot opened and the van took its only passenger to the inner courtyard of the court. To stay strong and be able to defend himself properly. Perhaps it was this hope and desire that made Elaha, as her lawyers said, able to deny the accusations and defend
herself; That too in front of photography and video cameras

At nearly ۱۲ o'clock yesterday, the first hearing of Elaha Mohammadi's case was completed and she was once again sent to the women's ward of Evin prison. As the judge of Branch ۱۵ announced, the investigation of Elaha Mohammadi's case is supposed to continue in the next sessions; Regarding the case of a female journalist who covered Mehsa Amini's funeral on September ۲۷th of last year, she was arrested on September ۷th, spent three months in Ward ۲۰۹ of Evin Prison, three and a half months in Qarchak Prison, and now she is back in Evin Prison. But all with the hope of a fair trial and a return to the
.days of love and freedom

Article code: ۸۱۲۷

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دریافت صفحه با کد QR

جزئیات محاکمه خبرنگار ختم مهسا امینی

۹ خرداد ۱۴۰۲ ساعت ۹:۲۲

نخستین جلسه رسیدگی به پرونده خبرنگار هم‌میهن بدون حضور خانواده او و به صورت غیرعلنی برگزار شد

صبح یک روز بهاری، یک ون سبزنگ با شیشه‌های دودی با یک مسافر از دامنه کوه‌های شمال تهران به سمت خیابان معلم به راه افتاد. صبح هشتم خردادماه ۱۴۰۲. تنها مسافر ون سبزنگ، زنی لاغراندام بود که این‌بار قرار بود از تپه‌های اوین پایین بیاید، به بزرگراه مدرس یا چمران برسد، از پیچ‌های خیابان‌ها عبور کند، از پنجره به آخرین روزهای بهار تهران نگاهی بیاندازد و بعد برسد به خیابان معلم، دادگاه انقلاب.

تنهامسافر آن ون سبزنگ با شیشه‌های دودی، یک زن خبرنگار بود؛ زنی که پس از هشت‌ماه بازداشت‌موقت، رفت‌وآمد بین بند ۲۰۹ زندان اوین، بند ۸ زندان قرچک و بند زنان زندان اوین، دیروز در شعبه ۱۵ دادگاه انقلاب به ریاست قاضی ابوالقاسم صلواتی محاکمه شد. تنهامسافر آن ون سبزنگ با شیشه‌های دودی، الهه محمدی بود، خبرنگار گروه جامعه روزنامه هم‌میهن.

ساعت هنوز به ۱۰ صبح نرسیده بود که ون سبزنگ از خیابان معلم به خیابان سلیمی پیچید و تنهامسافر آن از میان شیشه‌های دودی، تعداد زیادی از روزنامه‌نگاران، فعالان مدنی، دوستان و اعضای خانواده‌اش را دید که زیر تیغ آفتاب خرداد با دانه‌های عرق که روی جبین‌شان در نور برق می‌زد، با چشم‌هایی نگران و منتظر، امیدوار بودند خبرنگاری را ببینند که درست در هشت‌ماهگی بازداشتش، رهسپار نخستین جلسه رسیدگی دادگاه به اتهاماتش، دادگاهی تاریخی برای یک روزنامه‌نگار است؛ اتهاماتی که در ۲۸ فروردین‌ماه از زبان سخنگوی قوه قضائیه اعلام شد: «همکاری با دولت متخاصم آمریکا، اجتماع و تبانی برای ارتکاب جرم علیه امنیت کشور و تبلیغ علیه نظام.»

کسانی که دیروز برای همراهی با خانواده الهه محمدی و دادن قوت‌قلب به او به جلوی دادگاه انقلاب آمده بودند، هنوز امید داشتند بتوانند پدر و مادر و همسر و خواهران او را تا دادگاه همراهی کنند و بعد منتظر بمانند تا جلسه تمام شود و خبری از آن برای‌شان بیاورند اما تصمیم قاضی، چیز دیگری بود. مسئول دفتر قاضی صلواتی به خانواده الهه اعلام کرد که دادگاه غیرعلنی است و فقط خبرنگاران سایت قوه قضائیه در آن حضور خواهند داشت. همین هم شد که وقتی ون سبزنگ با تنها مسافرش که زنی خبرنگار بود، به در پارکینگ دادگاه انقلاب تهران رسید، امید که مثل بیشتر روزهای هشت‌ماه گذشته، راهش را گرفته و رفته بود، شتابان پر کشید.

دیدار کوتاه اما با الهه از پشت شیشه‌های دودی ون سبزنگ، میسر بود؛ که روزنه‌های کوچک نور، همیشه راهی برای خودنمایی پیدا می‌کنند. دوستان و روزنامه‌نگاران، خانواده و فعالان مدنی در همان چندثانیه، تا نباید در پارکینگ باز شود و ون، تنهامسافرش را به محوطه داخلی دادگاه ببرد، او را دیدند و برایش آرزوی موفقیت کردند؛ که قوی بماند و بتواند درست از خودش دفاع کند. شاید همین امید و آرزو هم بود که باعث شد الهه، آنطور که وکلایش گفتند بتواند اتهامات را رد و از خودش دفاع کند؛ آن هم جلوی دوربین‌های عکاسی و فیلمبرداری.

ساعت نزدیک به ۱۲ دیروز، نخستین جلسه رسیدگی به پرونده الهه محمدی تمام و او باردیگر رهسپار بند زنان زندان اوین شد. آنطور که قاضی شعبه ۱۵ اعلام کرده، قرار است در جلسات بعدی، رسیدگی به پرونده الهه محمدی ادامه داشته باشد؛ به پرونده زنی روزنامه‌نگار که مراسم خاکسپاری مهسا امینی را در ۲۷ شهریورماه پارسال روایت کرد، هفتم‌مهرماه بازداشت شد، سه‌ماه را در بند ۲۰۹ زندان اوین گذراند، سه‌ماه‌ونیم را در زندان قرچک و حالا دوباره در زندان اوین است؛ اما همه‌اش با امید به دادرسی عادلانه و بازگشت به روزهای عشق و آزادی.

کد مطلب: ۸۱۲۷

آدرس مطلب: جزئیات محاکمه - خبرنگار ختم مهسا امینی، <https://www.sobhshod.ir/news/8127/>

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Rights and freedom

'You will be killed': Iran's female journalists speak out on brutal crackdown

Ahead of a trial of journalists who covered the death of Mahsa Jina Amini, reporters describe beatings and threats as government agents try to wipe out independent media

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Deepa Parent

Tue 30 May 2023 07.00 BST

It was a chilling warning from government agents. A young female journalist based in Tehran recounted the calls and messages she had received: "It said they were at my sister's place and were there to rape her."

These were the same agents from Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) who had interrogated her after she had attended one of the [nationwide protests](#) that erupted last year after the death in custody of a 22-year-old woman, [Mahsa Jina Amini](#), who was arrested for wearing her headscarf improperly and then reportedly beaten into a coma.

Ahead of the [expected trial this week](#) of two female journalists, who were among the first

to report on the death of Amini, reporters in Iran have described the violent beatings, threats and imprisonment they have faced for reporting on protests in the country.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a female journalist said she feared for her life, despite being released uncharged after being detained by the IRGC for three days. She had been arrested while covering protests as a reporter after Amini's death.

"They [IRGC agents] have messaged me several times with death threats that they will kill me, like the protesters they killed during the protests," she said.



📷 The Iranian journalists Niloofar Hamedi, left, and Elaheh Mohammadi are among those detained. They have been accused of orchestrating protests with the CIA. Photograph: Abaca Press/Sipa

Another female journalist said she had been told that she had "no right to cover the protests" and could not interview the families of anyone killed.

About 40% of all those journalists detained in the past seven months have been female, according to the press freedom organisation Reporters Without Borders.

The two female journalists due to go on trial this week are accused of conspiring with hostile foreign powers, a charge that potentially carries the death penalty. They have been imprisoned and held in solitary confinement since being arrested shortly after their reports appeared in September 2022.

▲▲ Many citizen journalists have filled the void of official journalists who are trapped by censorship

Niloofar Hamedi, who works for the reformist newspaper Shargh Daily, and Elaheh Mohammadi, who writes on gender equality and social issues for the Hammihan

newspaper, were accused of “orchestrating the nationwide protests” through their reporting, as well as being accused of working with western intelligence, especially the CIA.

Journalists in [Iran](#) say much of the brutality has been focused on citizen journalists, both male and female, whose reports and photos were seen across Iran and abroad.

Often less well-known, these citizen journalists had “filled the void of official journalists who are trapped by censorship”, a female journalist said. “Out of fear of international reaction, the Iranian government harasses well-known journalists less, but punishes anonymous citizen journalists.

“I know many of them [citizen journalists] who were beaten in custody, and their legs were broken. All the videos and pictures published during the protests were from these citizen journalists, not official media,” said the journalist.

The dwindling number of jobs for independent journalists - as well as threats to their lives and freedom in Iran - has forced some who spoke to the Guardian to join state-run media outlets to be able to make a living. They still hope for the chance to report freely again.

“The people of Iran are more aware and wiser than ever but, with all the wealth and weapons in the hands of the dictator, how will Iranians fight against this authoritarian regime?” the journalist said. “Sometimes I think of leaving Iran, but who will then help voices to be heard?”

Most viewed



(en)



PRISONER

SENTENCE

ELAHEH MOHAMMADI

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CURRENT DETENTION STATUS

IN PRISON, PRE-TRIAL DETENTION

GENDER
FEMALE

AGE

RELIGION
PROBABLY SHIAAETHNICITY
UNKNOWNCOUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP
IRAN

AFFILIATED WITH

Resistance to
Compulsory Hijab
"Woman, Life,
Freedom" uprising

RELATED TO

ACTIVITY PERSECUTED FOR

JOURNALISM

SECONDARY ACTIVITIES

GENDER EQUALITY ACTIVISM
BIOGRAPHY

Elaheh Mohammadi is a reporter for Ham Mihan newspaper. She is among the reporters who attended the funeral of Mahsa Amini at her village in Saqez.

ARRESTS

DATE OF ARREST	ACTIVITY PERSECUTED FOR	CHARGED WITH	SENTENCE	CITY, PROVINCE OF ARREST
29/9/2022	Journalism			Tehran

TIMELINE

Reverse Chronological

- 16/2/2023** Canadian Journalists Association presented the award for the international press to Niloufar Hamedei and Elaheh Mohammadi. The award was delivered to an Iranian journalist in Canada, Shahram Rafizadeh on their behalf.
- (see source <https://twitter.com/CJFE/status/1628394133055315973?s=20>)
- 14/2/2023** According to Emtedad, the spokesman for the judiciary Masoud Setayeshi was asked about Elaheh Mohammadi and Niloufar Hamedei's situation and whether they will qualify for the pardon, and he said the decision is under review.
- (see source <https://t.me/emtedadnet/75331>)
- 13/2/2023** The International Federation of Journalists reported that Elnaz Mohammadi, sister of Elaheh Mohammadi, was released on bail.
- (see source https://ifj-farsi.org/?p=9551&utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)
- 10/2/2023** IFJ once again demanded the release of all journalists and free access to the internet on the anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The organization reminded the Islamic Republic officials that dozens of journalists are in prison only for doing their job.
- (see source <https://t.me/IFJFarsi/1934>)
- 8/2/2023** Her husband Saeed Parsaei reported that Elaheh was returned to Qarchak Prison.
- (see source https://twitter.com/parsae_d/status/1623638519871684608?s=20)
- 7/2/2023** Her husband Saeed Parsaei reported that she has been transferred from Qarchak to ward 209 of Evin Prison again and that's why they missed the family visit in Qarchak.
- (see source https://twitter.com/parsae_d/status/1623315704488529920?s=20)
- 5/2/2023** Elaheh Mohammadi's twin sister Elnaz Mohammadi who is the society page editor for Ham Mihan newspaper was arrested after she was summoned to Evin court.
- (see source https://twitter.com/parsae_d/status/1622157890579570689?s=20)

EXPLANATION

The murder of Mahsa Amini triggered a country-wide uprising in September 2022 in Iran. The protests were initially sporadic around the country and against the mandatory hijab. But in a few days, dozens of cities in Iran became the scenes of clashes between protesters and security forces. The protesters' main demands were freedom of attire and the overthrow of the Islamic Republic. The focus of the protests on women led to international attention.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

All	Prisoner's Activism
Court	Media
Family	Campaigns

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Mohammadi Goddess	
May 19, 1366	born
Senior expert in women's studies ^[1]	education
journalist	profession

Elahe Mohammadi is an Iranian social and women journalist ^[2] who works in *the country* . ^[3] In the past, he has collaborated with media such as *Shahrvand* , *Khabaronline* and *Etemadonline*. *Time* magazine named him one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2023

In August 1401, one of the reports published by Mohammadi in *Sharq* newspaper titled "Murder in the Name of Honor" ^[4] was nominated by the Journalist Association of Tehran Province as one of the best reports of the year. ^[5] He was arrested in 1401 after preparing a report on the death of Mahsa Amini by the Ministry of Information of the Government of Iran

records

:Academic records

- Master's degree in women's studies (women and family orientation) from Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman (graduated in 2010)
- Bachelor's degree in Persian language and literature from Al-Zahra University (graduated in 2008)

:resume

- Social reporter of the newspaper of the People's Republic of China in 1986
- Social reporter of Etemad newspaper in 2007
- Khaboronline social reporter in 2008
- Social reporter of public relations Arman newspaper in 1990
- Social reporter of Ebtekar newspaper in 1990
- Reporter/Political Secretary of Haft Sobh newspaper from 2011 to 2014
- Political reporter of the newspaper Vaqai Tahsahiyeh 94-95
- Political correspondent of Khabar Online 95-96
- Political secretary of Shahrvand newspaper 96-97
- Political Secretary of Edemad Online 97-98
- Deputy Social Secretary of Khabar Online 1400-98
- Social reporter of Ham Mihan newspaper 1401

Indicator reports

Date of Release	Description	Title
September 25, 1401	An interview with Mahsa Amini 's uncle and grandmother an hour before her death	We are not afraid of anyone; We complain (https://hammihanonline.ir/news/society/womens%D8%A7%D8%B2-%DA%A9%D8%B3%DB%8C-%D9%86%D9%85%DB%8C%E2%80%8C%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%B3%DB%8C%D9%85%D8%9B-%D8%B4%DA%A9%D8%A7%DB%8C%D8%A-%D9%85%DB%8C%E2%80%8C%DA%A9%D9%86%DB%8C%D9%85)
September 27 1401	Report from Saqez, where Mahsa Amini lived and was buried	A homeland of sorrow (https://hammihanonline.ir/news/society/yek-vatan-andooh)
September 29 1401	An investigative report on the implications of community psychology for moral security police actions	Guidance anxiety (https://hammihanonline.ir/news/society/%D8%A7%D8%B6%D8%B7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B4%D9%80%D8%A7%D8%AF)
October 30, 1400	A report about femicide in Kurdistan province One of the best reports of the year 1400, chosen by the Journalist Association of Tehran Province	Murder codenamed "Honor" (https://www.sharghdaily.com/fa/tiny/news-299871)
July 28, 1401	A field report of the presence of agents from the Ministry of Health in some hospitals following the law on the youth of the population and family support	Pregnancy tour in hospitals (https://hammihanonline.ir/news/society/%DA%AF%D8%B4%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%DB%8C-%D8%AF%D8%B1-%D8%A8%DB%8C%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D9%86%E2%80%8C%D9%87%D8%A7)
November 19, 2018	A report of the night when 5 murderers were supposed to be executed in .Rajaeeshahr prison	The long night of forgiveness and execution (https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/1318270/%D8%B4%D8%A8-%D8%A8%D9%84%D9%86%D8%AF-%D8%A8%D8%AE%D8%B4%D8%B4-%D9%88-%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%85)

Prohibition due to reporting from Qarchak prison

(https://www.khabaronline.ir/news/1377364) Mohammadi wrote on his personal Twitter page on December 2, 1400 : "In April 2019, I wrote a report about the situation in Qarchak prison during the days of the outbreak of the Corona virus in Khabar Online News Agency . After the publication, the IRGC Intelligence Organization sued me and a case was filed with accusations of propaganda against the system and publication of falsehoods with the intention of disturbing the public's mind. After several interrogation sessions by the IRGC regarding the report of the downing of the Ukrainian plane in November 2018 , working in the harassment monitoring group and dealing with issues related to women, the charges were explained and I was issued bail of 150 million .tomans. Mohammadi was banned from writing in the media where he worked from April 1399 to April 1400

Arrest

After Mehsa Amini was killed , Mohammadi traveled to Saqqez to prepare a report on Mehsa Amini's funeral ^[6] and was arrested after preparing the report ^[7] and on his return after being summoned by phone. ^[8] During his trip to Saqqez, Mohammadi published a report called "A Country of Sorrows" and it was published in Hame Mihan newspaper, in which he had a conversation with several former MPs. On 29 ^[9] .Shahrivar 1401, Mohammadi had taken similar measures in another report called "Anxiety of Guidance

After his arrest, Gholamhossein Karbaschi , the responsible manager of *Hamehan* , stated that Mohammadi had gone to Saqqez to prepare the news of Mehsa Amini's funeral on behalf of the newspaper, and that he is not responsible. ^[10] On 23 Mehr 1401, Mohammadi's wife wrote on her Twitter account that he had been in solitary confinement for 17 days and had not contacted him for a total of 10 minutes, and ^[11] there was no information about his charges

On November 7, 1401, in the joint statement of the Ministry of Intelligence and the IRGC Intelligence , the short names of two reporters, Mohammadi and Nilofar Hamidi , are seen, who introduced them to the Western spy services, which formed periods of subversion and combined wars in some countries. This news caused the protest of a large number of Twitter users. ^[12] More than 500 media activists also signed ^[13] a statement in support of Hamed and Mohammadi

Court

