

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC STATEMENT

13 October 2022

Index number: MDE 13/6104/2022

IRAN: KILLINGS OF CHILDREN DURING YOUTHFUL ANTI-ESTABLISHMENT PROTESTS

The Iranian authorities' unrelenting brutal crackdown on what many in Iran consider an ongoing popular uprising against the Islamic Republic system has involved an all-out attack on child protesters who have courageously taken to the streets in search of a future without political oppression and inequality. Since the eruption of the uprising on 16 September 2022, Iran's security forces have killed with absolute impunity at least 23 children and injured many more in a bid to crush the spirit of resistance among the country's youth and retain their iron grip on power at any cost.

The popular uprising unfolding in Iran was sparked by outrage at the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa (Zhin) Amini on 16 September 2022 days after she was arbitrarily arrested by the "morality" police for not complying with the country's discriminatory and abusive compulsory veiling laws. However, the focus of the protests quickly expanded to broader grievances against the political establishment and encompassed demands for the end of the Islamic Republic system. The protests have been marked by visibly increased involvement of school children and university students displaying a bold determination to defy the ageing theocratic establishment steeped in impunity and discrimination and fight for Iran's transition to a system respecting equality and human rights.

The first annex to this document records the names and details of 23 children killed as a result of unlawful use of force by Iran's security forces in the course of 10 days of protests from 20 September to 30 September 2022.¹ The child victims include 20 boys, aged between 11 and 17, and three girls, two of whom were 16 years old and one 17 years old.²

Amnesty International believes the real number of children killed by Iran's security forces is higher and is continuing its investigations. The organization is aware of at least five further cases³ where the deceased are reported to have been under 18 years of age, but is seeking further corroborating information about the age or full name of the victims and/or the circumstances surrounding their deaths.

Most of the children (at least 17) were killed due to security forces unlawfully firing live ammunition. At least two children were killed due to security forces unlawfully firing metal pellets,⁴ and at least four children died as a result of injuries consistent with fatal beatings. In the list below, entries are grouped by the reported cause of death and accordingly placed under the following headings: live ammunition (17); metal pellets (2); and fatal beatings (4).

Nearly half of the recorded child victims (10) belonged to Iran's oppressed Baluchi minority and were killed by security forces during "Bloody Friday", on 30 September, in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province – the deadliest day of the government's crackdown on the protests. Six of the 10 children in Zahedan were killed as security forces fired live ammunition, metal pellets and teargas at protesters, bystanders and worshippers during a violent crackdown on a protest

¹ Amnesty International has not obtained any information concerning the death of children during the first three days of the latest wave of protests, that is from 16-19 September 2022, or in the protests taking place since 30 September in various cities across the country. However, the organization has continued to document widespread patterns of security forces unlawfully firing live ammunition, birdshot and other pellets, to suppress protests that have resulted in serious injuries of hundreds of protesters and bystanders, including children.

² The names of the three girls are Sarina Esmailzadeh (No. 20); Nika Shakarami (No. 21) and Setareh Tajik (No. 22).

³ The names of the five reported child victims who are not included in Amnesty International's current list are as follows: Mehdi Asgari killed on 21 September in Garmsar, Semnan province; Amir Norouzi killed on 21 September in Bandar Anzali, Gilan province; Amir Fouladi killed on 21 September in Eslam Abad-e Gharb, Kermanshah province; Matin Ghanbarzehi killed on 30 September in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province; and a two-year old child by the reported last name of Mirshekari killed on 30 September in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province.

⁴ Note that for another child victim, Mehdi Mousavi Nikou (No. 23), information available indicates that he was both shot with metal pellets and subjected to severe beatings to his head. Based on the information published by independent media outlets, Amnesty International has placed him under the category of killings caused by fatal beatings, but it is possible that his metal pellet injuries may have caused or contributed to his death.

taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the city's main mosque.⁵ Four children were killed in crackdowns on other protests across Zahedan the same day.⁶ Evidence gathered by Amnesty International shows that at least seven of the children killed in Zahedan on 30 September were shot in the heart, head or other vital organs.

The remaining 13 child victims were killed in 11 cities in the provinces of Tehran (5),⁷ West Azerbaijan (4),⁸ Alborz (1),⁹ Kermanshah (1),¹⁰ Kohgiluyeh and Bouyer Ahmad (1),¹¹ and Zanjan (1).¹²

Children represent 16% of overall deaths of protesters and bystanders recorded by Amnesty International. The organization has so far recorded the names and details of 144 men, women and children killed by Iran's security forces since the eruption of nationwide protests in Iran on 16 September 2022. Of these, 58 deaths cover a seven-day period from Monday 19 September to Sunday 25 September; 76 are from 30 September in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province; and 10 are reported to be from the security forces' crackdown on further protests in Zahedan between 1 and 3 October. The organization is in the process of investigating further reports of deaths that have emerged since early October 2022.

The breakdown by date of the 23 recorded deaths of children is as follows: one on 20 September;¹³ six on 21 September;¹⁴ two on 22 September;¹⁵ one each on 23 September,¹⁶ 25 September,¹⁷ and 28 September,¹⁸ and 10 on 30 September,¹⁹ For one child, the exact date when he sustained fatal injuries is not known.²⁰

The latest round of child killings seen in the context of protests in Iran is rooted in a deep crisis of systemic impunity that has long prevailed in Iran for the most serious crimes under international and which, given the scale and severity of past and ongoing human rights violations, has not been sufficiently addressed by the UN Human Rights Council. Previous waves of protests were consistently met with similar patterns of unlawful use of force, including lethal force, which, for example, resulted in the death of hundreds of protesters and bystanders, including at least 21 children, during the nationwide protests of November 2019.

The Iranian authorities have repeatedly ignored the calls of the calls of the UN Secretary General, the UN High Commissioner, multiple UN Special Procedures, UN member states and the UN General Assembly to cease the unlawful use of force, including lethal force, against protesters and bystanders. Calls on the Iranian authorities to effectively

⁵ They include Mohammad Amin Gamshadzehi (No. 8); Samer Hashemzehi (No. 11); Sodeys Keshani (No. 12); Yaser Shahouzehi (No. 13); Ali Barahouie (16); and Javad Pousheh (No. 17).

⁶ They include killed Jaber Shiroozehi (No. 9); Omid Safarzehi (No. 10); Mohammad Rakhshani (No. 14); and Omid Sarani (No. 15).

⁷ The five recorded child victims from Tehran province include Nika Shakarami killed on 20 or 21 September (No. 21); Mohammad Reza Sarvari killed on 21 September (No. 4); Setareh Tajik killed on 22 September (No. 22); Siavash Mahmoudi killed on 25 September (No. 6); and Amir Mehdi Farrokipour killed on 28 September (No. 7).

⁸ The four recorded child victims from West Azerbaijan province include Zakaria Khial killed on 20 September (No. 1); Amin Marefat killed on 21 September (No. 2); Abdollah Mahmoudpour killed on 21 September (No. 3); and Nima Shafaghdoost who died on 5 October, but the date when he was shot is not known (No. 19).

⁹ See the case of Sarina Esmailzadeh killed on 23 September (No. 20).

¹⁰ See the case of Amir Hossein Basati killed on 21 September (No. 18).

¹¹ See the case of Pedram Azarnoush killed on 22 September (No. 5).

¹² See the case of Mehdi Mousavi Nikou killed on 21 September (No. 23).

¹³ See the case of Zakaria Khial from Piranshahr, West Azerbaijan province (No. 1).

¹⁴ See the cases of Amin Marefat from Oshnavieh, West Azerbaijan province (No. 2); Abdollah Mahmoudpour from the village of Balou, West Azerbaijan province (No. 3); Amir Hossein Basati from Kermanshah, Kermanshah province (No. 18); Mehdi Mousavi Nikou from Zanjan, Zanjan province (No. 23); Mohammad Reza Sarvari from Shahr-e Rey, Tehran province (No. 4); and Nika Shakarami from Tehran, Tehran province (No. 22). With respect to the case of Nika Shakarami, note that her burial certificate cites 21 September as her date of death, but the fatal incident leading to her death may have occurred shortly before mid-night on 20 September when she was last in contact with her family.

¹⁵ See the case of Pedram Azarnoush from Dehdasht, Kohgiluyeh and Bouyer Ahmad province (No. 5) and Setareh Tajik from Tehran, Tehran province (No. 22).

¹⁶ See the case of Sarina Esmailzadeh from Karaj, Alborz province (No. 20).

¹⁷ See the case of Siavash Mahmoudi from Tehran, Tehran province (No. 6).

¹⁸ See the case of Amir Mehdi Farrokipour from Tehran, Tehran province (No. 7).

¹⁹ The 10 recorded victims include Mohammad Amin Gamshadzehi (No. 8); Jaber Shiroozehi (No. 9); Omid Safarzehi (No. 10); Samer Hashemzehi (No. 10); Sodeys Keshani (No. 12); Yaser Shahouzehi (No. 13); Mohammad Rakhshani (No. 14); and Omid Sarani (No. 15); Ali Barahouie (No.16); and Javad Pousheh (No. 17).

²⁰ See the case of Nima Shafaghdoost (No. 19).

investigate and prosecute those responsible for unlawful killings and torture and other ill-treatment of protesters and of people deprived of their liberty have also been ignored.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) should act as a matter of urgency by holding a special session on Iran. Given the gravity of crimes under international law and other serious human rights violations committed in Iran and the prevailing systemic impunity, HRC members should adopt a resolution during that special session to establish an international independent investigative and accountability mechanism. Such a mechanism should collect, consolidate, preserve, and analyze evidence of the most serious crimes under international law committed in Iran and other serious violations of human rights in a manner that meets general standards of admissibility in criminal proceeding and to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those suspected of criminal responsibility.

Amnesty International also renews its calls for all states to exercise universal jurisdiction to criminally investigate and prosecute Iranian officials suspected of criminal responsibility for crimes under international law.

METHODOLOGY

As part of its ongoing investigation into the crackdown on protests that have taken place since 16 September 2022, Amnesty International gathered testimonies from protesters, other eyewitnesses, relatives of victims and other affected individuals as well as human rights defenders and journalists inside Iran. Sources outside Iran also shared with Amnesty International information they had received from primary sources in Iran, including written and audio-recorded eyewitness accounts. The organization also reviewed audiovisual evidence, death and burial certificates noting forensic cause of death as well as official statements, leaked official documents and state media reports.

The number of deaths of children recorded by Amnesty International is limited to only victims whose names have been identified. For 14 child victims, the findings are based on information provided by individuals directly impacted including lawyers, relatives, neighbours and eyewitnesses; this information was either directly shared with Amnesty International or was publicly available through statements made by victims' relatives or lawyers, which were published by media outlets or on social media. For the remaining nine victims, Amnesty International's documentation is based on information received by the organization from human rights activists and journalists. In order to ascertain the credibility of this information, Amnesty International interviewed them about their sources of information, which typically included relatives, neighbours, friends, eyewitnesses and other primary sources. For each victim, Amnesty International conducted internet searches and, where it was able to locate media articles or social media posts on them, compared the information available online with the information received directly from primary or secondary sources.

In order to protect the security of its sources, Amnesty International has withheld the names and identifying details of all individuals who provided Amnesty International with information.

Due to the deliberate disruption to internet access imposed by the Iranian authorities and the intense climate of fear and repression prevailing in the country, Amnesty International has so far been able to obtain documentary proof of age, including burial certificates, pictures of gravestones or identification documents, only for six of the child victims.²¹ However, as part of its process of crosschecking and corroboration, Amnesty International was able to obtain the pictures of 19 of the 23 child victims identified. The organization was also able to obtain the funeral posters of 10 of the 13 child victims killed in provinces other than Sistan and Baluchistan (see Annex 2). For the 10 Baluchi children killed in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province, on 30 September, funeral posters were not available as the practices around funeral ceremonies in this region of the country do not generally involve the publication of funeral posters. In some cases, Amnesty International also reviewed pictures or videos showing the bodies of the children with horrific wounds in their heads or torso.

²¹ Death and burial certificates in Iran record the dates of birth and death, as well as the cause of death. The dates of birth and death recorded on the gravestone of the deceased are generally identical to the information recorded in their death and burial certificates. Families are not authorized to bury their loved ones or erect gravestones until a burial certificate has been issued by the Legal Medicine Organization of Iran, a state forensic institute working under the supervision of the judiciary.

ANNEX 1 - LIST OF CHILDREN KILLED BY IRAN'S SECURITY FORCES DURING PROTESTS BETWEEN 20 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2022

1. KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES FIRING LIVE AMMUNITION

1. ZAKARIA KHIAL



Security forces fatally shot Zakaria Khial, aged 16, during protests in Piranshahr, West Azerbaijan province on 20 September. According to information provided by a primary source, security forces fired live ammunition at Zakaria Khial from about two meters, and while lying bleeding on the ground, they also severely beat him, which left him with broken legs and hands. The primary source said that the governor of Piranshahr, the city's Friday prayer leader and several other high-ranking security and intelligence officials have been intensely pressuring the family to give a video-recorded statement, reiterating the authorities' narrative that an armed Kurdish opposition killed Zakaria Khial.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

2. AMIN MAREFAT



Revolutionary Guards agents in Oshnavieh, West Azerbaijan province killed Amin Marefat, aged 16, on 21 September while randomly firing live ammunition at protesters. Amnesty International obtained the account of a protester who described how "Amin Marefat was shot in his heart ... and the bullet exited through his back." The organization reviewed a video corroborating the eyewitness testimony showing a bullet hole in the back of Amin Marefat's body.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

3. ABDOLLAH MOHAMMADPOUR



Security forces including paramilitary Basij forces fired live ammunition at protesters who had gathered in the vicinity of the Basij headquarters in the village of Balou, West Azerbaijan province, on 21 September, resulting in the death of Abdollah Mohammadpour, aged 17. Amnesty International obtained a voice message from an eyewitness saying: “They [security forces] are directly killing us.” The organization reviewed a video from Balou indicating that security forces continued to fire live ammunition even when protesters had already moved away from the entrance of the Basiji headquarters and were protesting from a distance without posing any imminent threat to anyone.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

4. MOHAMMAD REZA SARVARI



Security forces fatally shot Mohammad Reza Sarvari, a 14-year-old boy of Afghan nationality, during protests in Shahr-e Rey, Tehran province on 21 September. On 7 October, his lawyer published on his Twitter account a copy of his burial certificate, issued by the Legal Medicine Organization of Iran, a state forensic institute, which stated that Mohammad Reza Sarvari died as a result of “bleeding and shattered brain tissue” caused by “being hit with a fast-moving projectile”. The lawyer wrote that he was publicly sharing the official document to prevent the authorities and state media outlets from later propagating false narratives that the child died due to “suicide”, as they

have done in the cases of multiple protesters and bystanders killed at the hands of security forces. Amnesty International also reviewed a corroborating video showing Mohammad Reza Sarvari on the ground and severely bleeding from his head. A primary source told Amnesty International that Mohammad Reza Sarvari was shot in the back of his head while fleeing from security forces who were randomly firing at protesters. Security and intelligence officials have warned Mohammad Reza Sarvari’s family against speaking out.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

5. PEDRAM AZARNOUSH



Revolutionary Guards agents in Dehdasht, Kohgilouyeh and Bouyer Ahmad province, killed Pedram Azarnoush, aged 16, on 22 September while randomly firing live ammunition at protesters. An eyewitness told Amnesty International: “The young boy was leaning on a wall and he was only looking at people. The protesters were fleeing, and he did not realize that bullets could come in his direction as well ... The security forces were repeatedly firing their weapons in all directions, and everyone was at risk of being shot or not, it was sheer luck whether they [escaped] being hit by a bullet or not.”

Source: Individuals directly impacted

6. SIAVASH MAHMOUDI



Security forces fatally shot Siavash Mahmoudi, aged, 16, during protests in Tehran on 25 September. Amnesty International has not obtained detailed information about the circumstances in which he was killed, but reviewed a video of his bereaved mother, which circulated online on 30 September and shows her holding a picture of her son in the street and inviting people to attend her son’s funeral. She states: “*Let everyone know. This is [the picture of] my Siavash. Siavash Mahmoudi...They [security forces] killed my child. They shot him in his head. I am proud to be the mother of Siavash Mahmoudi. I am not afraid of anyone. They [the authorities] are telling me to remain silent, but I will not sit in silence.*”

Source: Individuals directly impacted

7. AMIR MEHDI FARROKHIPOUR



Security forces fatally shot Amir Mehdi Farrokhipour, aged 17, during protests near Keshavarz Boulevard in Tehran on 28 September. A relative of the victim living outside Iran told Amnesty International that, according to information received from primary sources in Iran, security forces fired both metal pellets and live ammunition at him, and that he died from gunshot wounds in his chest. According to the relative living abroad, intelligence officials forced the child’s father to record a video statement falsely stating that his son died during a car accident, threatening to kill or otherwise harm his daughters if he refused.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

8. MOHAMMAD AMIN GAMSHADZEHI

Security forces killed Mohammad Amin Gamshadzehi, aged 17, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on a protest taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the main mosque in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to a primary source, he had just finished Friday prayers and was walking to his home nearby when security forces shot him in the heart just outside the prayer site.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

9. JABER SHIROOZEHI

Security forces killed Jaber Shiroozehi, aged 12, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on protests taking place in the area of Shirabad in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to information obtained by human rights activists, security forces shot Jaber Shiroozehi in the head.

Source: Activists and journalists

10. OMID SAFARZEHI



Security forces killed Omid Safarzehi, aged 17, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on protests taking place in the area of Shirabad in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. A primary source told Amnesty International that he was struck in the neck by two bullets fired by security forces.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

11. SAMER HASHEMZEHI



Security forces killed Samer Hashemzahi, aged 16, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on a protest taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the main mosque in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to a primary source, when his family went to retrieve his body, the authorities warned them against making statements that security forces shot him or filing complaints about his killing.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

12. SODEYS KESHANI



Security forces killed Sodeys Keshani, aged 14, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on a protest taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the main mosque in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to information obtained by human rights activists, security forces shot Sodeys Keshani in his head and heart.

Source: Activists and journalists

13. YASER SHAHOUEHI

Security forces killed Yaser Shahouzehi, aged 16, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on a protest taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the main mosque in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to information obtained by human rights activists, security forces shot Yaser Shahouzehi in his heart.

Source: Activists and journalists

14. MOHAMMAD RAKHSHANI



Security forces killed Mohammad Rakhshani, aged 12, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on protests taking place in the area of Kawsar in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to information obtained by human rights activists, security forces shot Mohammad Rakhshani in the head.

Source: Activists and journalists

15. OMID SARANI



Security forces killed Omid Sarani, aged 13, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on protests taking place in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to information obtained by human rights activists, security forces shot Omid Sarani in the chest.

Source: Activists and journalists

16. ALI BARAHOUIE



Security forces killed Ali Barahouie, aged 14, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on a protest taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the main mosque in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. According to human rights activists, he was shot in the neck and chest while he was still inside the Mosalla prayer site.

Source: Activists and journalists

17. JAVAD POUSHEH

Security forces killed Javad Pousheh, aged 11, on 30 September during a violent crackdown on a protest taking place after Friday prayers outside a police station opposite the Great Mosalla of Zahedan, a large prayer site near the main mosque in Zahedan, Sistan and Baluchistan province. Shocking videos filmed immediately after his death show the bloodied body of a boy being carried amid chaotic scenes of people screaming; one man is heard stating: “They have hit a child”. Other disturbing audio-visual evidence provided to Amnesty International, and analysed by the organization’s weapons expert, reveals what appear to be wounds on the left side of the back of his head and his right cheek leaving a large gaping hole. According to a primary source, he was shot in the back of his head with live ammunition by security forces and the bullet exited through his cheek.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

2. KILLED BY SECURITY FORCES FIRING METAL PELLETS

18. AMIR HOSSEIN BASATI



Security forces killed Amir Hossein Basati, aged 15, on 21 September during protests in Kermanshah, Kermanshah province. A human rights defender outside Iran shared with Amnesty International a written account from an eyewitness who said Amir Hossein Basati died immediately after riot police fired metal pellets at him from a close range.

Source: Activists and journalists

19. NIMA SHAFAGHDOOST



Nima Shafaghdoost died in Urumieh, West Azerbaijan province, on 5 October at the age of 16 as a result of security forces firing metal pellets at him. Human rights defenders outside Iran told Amnesty International that according to information received from sources on the ground, for several days after he was shot, Nima Shafaghdoost did not seek treatment for fear of arrest. Amnesty International has been unable to confirm the exact circumstances surrounding his death, including the exact date of the shooting, and has learned that security and intelligence bodies have harassed and intimidated his family and warned them against speaking out.

Source: Activists and journalists

3. CHILDREN KILLED AS A RESULT OF FATAL BEATINGS

20. SARINA ESMAILZADEH



Sarina Esmailzadeh was killed at the age of 16 during the protests in the neighbourhood of Gohardasht in Karaj, Alborz province, on 23 September. According to information received from a primary source in Iran, security forces fatally struck her head with batons and subsequently subjected the girl's family to intense harassment and intimidation to coerce them into silence. The authorities did not allow the family to see the body of Sarina Esmailzadeh after her death; they brought the body to the burial site while wrapped in a white shroud and forced the family to immediately bury it. Security and intelligence agents had a heavy presence at her memorial ceremony, intimidating bereaved relatives and other mourners.

On 7 October, after her death received a lot of media attention in Iran and globally, triggering a public outcry, the head of the department of justice in Alborz province, Hossein Fazeli, claimed that Sarina Esmailzadeh had committed suicide by jumping from a rooftop.

The next day, Tasnim News Agency, a state media outlet affiliated with the Revolutionary Guards, aired a short interview with Sarina Esmailzadeh's mother, which showed her repeating the official narrative that her daughter had not been involved in the protests and had died as a result of suicide. However, the same day, Radio Farda, an independent media outlet outside Iran, quoted a relative of Sarina Esmailzadeh saying that the Revolutionary Guards agents had subjected her mother to extreme intimidation and harassment in order to coerce her into reiterating the official narrative. On 12 October, Radio Farda reported, citing primary sources in Iran, that intelligence and security agents have threatened to kill or otherwise harm Sarina Esmailzadeh's surviving brother if the family does not publicly reiterate the official narrative. They have also instructed the family to file complaints against any person or entity disputing the narrative that she died as a result of suicide. Radio Farda further revealed that the authorities had conditioned the return of Sarina Esmailzadeh's body on her family publicly accepting the authorities' bogus narrative.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

21. NIKA SHAKARAMI



Nika Shakarami, aged 16, was forcibly disappeared on 20 September after taking part in protests in Tehran; it transpired nine days later, on 29 September, that she had died. Her burial certificate, which has been reviewed by Amnesty International cites 21 September as the date of her death and states that her death resulted from "multiple injuries caused by collision with a hard object".

According to primary sources with knowledge of her case, Nika Shakarami last talked to her mother and one of her friends, Nika, on the phone around 11:30pm on 20 September and said she was being chased by security officials. Her mobile phone was subsequently switched off and her social media accounts deleted. For the next nine days, her family repeatedly sought to obtain information about her from multiple police stations, detention facilities, intelligence bodies and the Legal Medicine

Organization of Iran. However, authorities either denied any knowledge about her fate and whereabouts to her family, or gave them conflicting information. During the same period, several individuals who said they were Revolutionary Guards agents but refused to provide their names phoned the family multiple times, stating that she had been in the custody of the Revolutionary Guards for several days and was then transferred to Tehran's Evin prison. Despite this, when her family sought information at Evin prison, officials denied that Nika Shakarami was not being held there.

Eventually, on 29 September, authorities at the investigation unit of Iran's police (Agahi) in Tehran informed the family that there was a body in a morgue in Kahrizak, Tehran province, that matched the description of Nika Shakarami. Her family was allowed to briefly see the body in the Kahrizak morgue the next day and identified the deceased as Nika Shakarami. According to media interviews given by her family, her cheekbones, nose and teeth were broken and her skull pounded from blows to her head. The family took the body to Salehin cemetery in Khorramabad, Lorestan province, with the intention of burying her there, but hours before the scheduled funeral, security and intelligence bodies secretly removed the body from the morgue and buried her in the remote village of Hayatolgheyb in Veysian district, Lorestan province, without the family's consent.

Consistent with previous patterns of denial, distortion and cover-ups in order to absolve themselves of accountability in the face of significant domestic and global media attention to Nika Shikarami's death, the authorities have propagated bogus narratives about her death without carrying out impartial and full investigations, while pressuring her family to publicly confirm the official state narrative about her death.

The authorities have also subjected Nika Shakarami's family members to arbitrary arrest, and other forms of harassment and intimidation. Her maternal aunt and uncle were arbitrarily arrested on 3 October and detained temporarily. Several days later, on 5 October, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting aired a propaganda video which showed her maternal aunt and uncle accepting the official narrative and referring to the actions of protesters using expressions identical to those used by the authorities and state media to vilify demonstrators. The propaganda video showed a girl whom the authorities claim is Nika Shakarami walking into a building, while claiming that her death was unrelated to protests or beatings by security forces but was, instead, caused by "falling from a height" from a building rooftop near her aunt's home. According to information obtained from a primary source, these statements were extracted under conditions of duress in detention, including threats of violence. On 6 October 2022, in response to the propaganda video, Nika Shakarami's mother made a statement in a [moving video testimony](#), published by Radio Farda, that the person in the video is not her daughter, that the authorities had coerced her brother and sister into making forced, false statements, and that they have also threatened her with reprisals if she does not publicly accept the official narrative that her daughter had committed suicide.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

22. SETAREH TAJIK



Setareh Tajik, a 17-year-old girl of Afghan nationality, was killed during the protests in Tehran, Tehran province, on 22 September. According to information received from a primary source, her face and body were severely smashed, which indicates that her death resulted from beatings at the hands of security force. This is consistent with information recorded on Setareh Tajik's burial certificate, which has been reviewed by Amnesty International. The certificate states that her death resulted from "multiple injuries caused by collision with a hard object". Security and intelligence agents have subjected the girl's family to intense harassment and intimidation to coerce them into silence.

Source: Individuals directly impacted

23. MEHDI MOUSAVI NIKOU



Security forces killed Mehdi Mousavi Nikou, aged 16, during protests in Zanjan, Zanjan province, on 21 September. According to information published by two independent media outlets, Iran Wire and Iran International, security forces first fired metal pellets at Mehdi Mousavi Nikou from behind, causing him to fall to the ground. Security forces then fatally struck his head and body with batons, and he died while being transferred from the site of the incident to a hospital.

Source: Activists and journalists

ANNEX 2 – FUNERAL POSTERS OF 10 CHILDREN KILLED DURING PROTESTS BETWEEN 20 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2022



Funeral poster of Zakaria Khial
(see No. 1 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Sarina Esmailzadeh
(see No. 20 in Annex 1 above)

به داخ و کهسه ریکی زورهوه کوچی دوابی خوالینخوشیوو

نهمین مه عرفت

فهر راشی

کوری خوشه ویستی: نهوویه کر مه عرفت و خادم پشتوانه
 یوزای خوشه ویستی: مراد، مستفان، ناسر و مامال فهر راشی
 خوارزای نازیزی: عوسهر، کامران و محممه د پشتوانه
 به ناکاداری خزمان و ناسیاران ده که به نین که روژانی:

پنجشنبه مه
وههینی

ریکه وتی: ۱۴۰۱/۰۷/۰۱ و ۰۶/۳۱

له مز که وتی محممه د ره سول نه لوس، به ری توه ده چی

هاوکات سه ره خوشی زنان له
 «شوقامی محممه د نه وراز» مالی مراد فهر راشی به ری توه ده چی
 (مالی توه به بران دینه هوی نراسی روچی خوالینخوشیوو و مسوری ده خانه دلی به خانه کوی)

بینه عاله کتی

فهر راشی، پشتوانه، عه زیزی، خه لیلی
 یا نیکرام، باغهوان، رحمانی، ره سولیان، عه بدولتلازاده
 «خه لکی به ری تزی شاری نه لوس، که ره کی ره حیم ناباد»
 و گشت خزم و ناسیاراتی به ری تزی

کانال اطلاع رسانی
 ایل شکاک
 @shahnavah_tarhim

Funeral poster of Amin Marefat
 (see No. 2 in Annex 1 above)

کانال اطلاع رسانی
 ایل شکاک
 @shahnavah_tarhim

مجلس ترحیم

پسر درکودی از شوق دل دست پسر گزید به امید که در پیوستگی پسر در
 مصیبت آن زمان باشد، پسر قبل پسر میرد که تابوت عزیزش را پذیر بر
با نهایت تألم و تأثر درگذشت مرحوم فقیر شادروان

عبدال محمد پور

فرزند گرامی عبدالغفور محمود پور
 برادرزاده گرامی: فخرالدین و فریدون محمود پور

را به اطلاع دوستان و آشنایان می رساند، مجلس ترحیم آن مرحوم روزهای
 پنجشنبه ۱۴۰۱/۰۶/۳۱ و جمعه ۱۴۰۱/۰۷/۰۱ بصورت تمام وقت در

مسجد جامع پالو
 واقع در جاده سلماس، روستای پالو

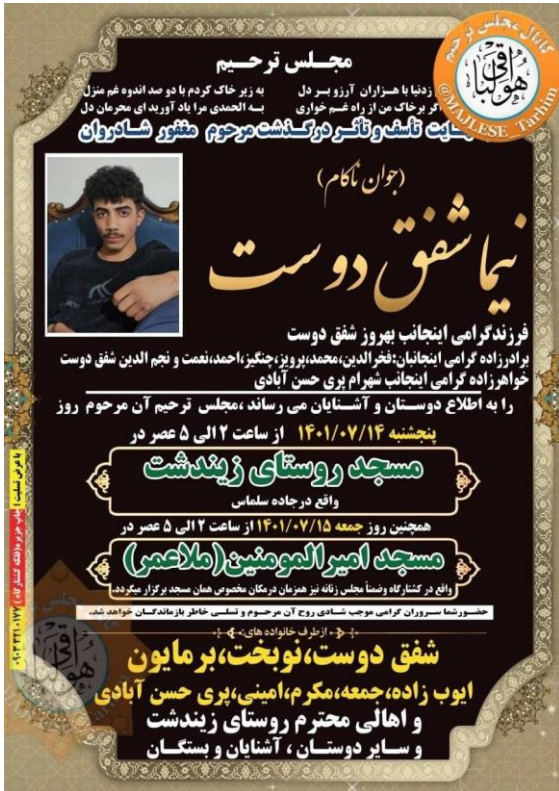
ضمناً مجلس زنانه نیز همزمان در مکان مخصوص همان مسجد برگزار میگردد.
 حضور شما سروران گرامی موجب تسادی روح آن مرحوم و تسلی خاطر بازماندگان خواهد شد.
 از طرف خانواده های

محمود پور و شهبازی

اهالی محترم روستای آلمی، پالو و سایر دوستان، آشنایان و بستگان

چاپ پدیده پالو: ۰۹۱۴۵۶۰۴۸۱۰

Funeral poster of Abdollah Mohammadpour,
 (see No. 3 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Nima Shafaghdoost
(see No. 19 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Amir Mehdi Farrokhpoor
(see No. 7 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Siavash Mahmoudi (see No. 6 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Amir Hossein Basati (see No. 18 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Mehdi Mousavi Nikou (see No. 23 in Annex 1 above)



Funeral poster of Nika Shakarami (see No. 21 in Annex 1 above)