

Women, Freedom, Life : The Chants of Iran's Protests

Protests Grow in Iran after the Death of a Young Woman who was Detained by the Country's Morality Police

The death of a young woman in police custody on September 16 has sparked a chain of anti-government protests in many cities all over Iran. MahsaAmini, 22, who was of Kurdish origin and hailed from the north-western province of Kurdistan, was on a visit to the capital Tehran. She was arrested by the morality police, known as the "Gasht-e-Ashab", on charges of being "immodestly dressed". She died, after falling into a coma for three days, in hospital. According to the authorities, she was hospitalised soon after her arrest.

Hundreds of protesters, mostly women, took to the streets; Several protesters have now been killed, after confrontations with security forces and pro-government militia. As per the Norway based Iran Human Rights (IHR) NGO at least 92 people have been killed nationwide in Iran's crackdown in two weeks of protests that erupted following the death of Mahsa Amini.

Hijab Law and Morality Police :

Many Iranians, especially in urban areas, have for long abhorred the dress code. In recent years, Iranian women in large numbers started flouting the hijab rules, while the morality police began to implement the "bad hijab" rules selectively to deter them. In the past, women who protested against the dress code were dealt with more sternly and even faced prison terms.

The current protests were initially focussed against the actions of the morality police and their attempts to impose the dress code. The first big protest march by women after Amini's death happened in Tehran. According to reports, it was the biggest demonstration against the dress code since the establishment of the Islamic Republic in 1979. During the initial days of the protests, some women took the daring step of burning their headscarves in full view of the authorities and some even cut off their hair in front of television cameras.

People of the world must show the solidarity with Iran women on their life and freedom; at the same time, we must also condemn tyranny acts on women by Iran Govt.