

## **FA International Relations Statement - STRUGGLES FOR FREEDOM IN IRAN, THE FIGHT GOES ON**

**On September 16, 2022, Jina (Mahsa) Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, was murdered by the mullahs' dictatorship in Iran. She did not survive the brutality of her arrest on the 13th by the morality police, who had deemed her wearing her Islamic hijab insufficient.**

This assassination then triggered a wave of protests lasting more than 120 days in Iran. The slogan "Woman Life Freedom" was chanted in all languages spoken in Iran. The Islamic regime's response continued to be bloody repression: more than 600 people killed in the streets, many of them women (let's mention Hadis Najafi, Nika Shakarami, Ghazaleh Chalabi) and 20,000 arrests. At least 6 political prisoners, arrested during the movement, were executed.

Iranian women have always resisted the criminal laws, dictated by religion, that patriarchal power, state power in the public sphere and family power in the private sphere, imposes on them like so many dogmas. There are many female political prisoners, such as Zeynab Jalalian, sentenced to life imprisonment, who has been in prison for 16 years, and Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee, already sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment for having campaigned against the stoning and death penalty (around 15 women are hanged every year), arrested on September 26, 2022 for his participation in the days of revolt.

After the street demonstrations, the revolutionary struggle continues in other forms, as did repression : preventive arrests in militant circles were ordered, 12 for the single day of August 16 in cities in the north of the country, 11 of which concern women. Among them, Jelveh Javaheri and Forough Saminia suffer from osteoarthritis and diabetes but the prison regime does not allow access to medication and urgent care.

The country is witnessing other social struggles: rallies for pensions, protests at the Tabas coal mine site and in the health sector (mainly female staff) in Isfahan, strikes by Machine Sazi workers in Arak, and so on.

Four long decades under the rule of a theocratic state have worsened social, economic, political and cultural problems in Iran to such an extent that a revolution has become the only possible path to the liberation of Iranian women and society as a whole.

**The Anarchist Federation stands in solidarity with the Iranian women fighting for freedom, victims of discrimination, restrictions, prohibitions, oppression, repression, threats, warnings from the authorities, violence, torture and executions, and with the Iranians who support this struggle at the cost of their own freedom and their own life. Because as Mikhail Bakunin, anarchist thinker and co-founder of organized anarchism, said: "I am only truly free when all the human beings around me, men and women, are equally free. The freedom to the other, far from being a limit or the negation of my freedom, is on the contrary the necessary condition and confirmation of it.**

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**S'ORGANISER ET LUTTER**