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Iran: Golrokh Iraee sentenced to six years in prison for her advocacy around the protests which began in September 2022

On 11 April 2023, Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced woman human rights defender **Golrokh Iraee** to six years in prison on the charge of “gathering and colluding against national security” and one year in prison on the charge of producing “propaganda against the state.” According to this verdict, the woman human rights defender has additionally been sentenced to a two year travel ban, a ban on living in Tehran, and a two year ban on membership of political and social groups.

[Golrokh Iraee](#) is a woman human rights defender and anti-death penalty activist working on the documentation of human rights violations, predominantly inside Iranian prisons. She has extensively reported on abuses and violations committed by the authorities against human rights defenders such as torture, ill treatment and refusal of access to a lawyer, including during the mass protests which have been ongoing in Iran since September 2022.

On 11 April 2023, the lawyer of Golrokh Iraee was informed that Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court sentenced the woman human rights defender to six years in prison on the charge of “gathering and colluding against national security” and a one year prison sentence on the charge of “propaganda against state”. She has also been subjected to a two year travel ban, a two year ban on living in Tehran, and a two year ban on membership of political and social groups. Electronic devices, found in her house at the time of her violent arrest, have also been confiscated. After the application of Article 134 of the Islamic Penal Code the human rights defender has received the most severe single sentence of six years related to the charge of “gathering and colluding against national security,” and will have to serve the maximum sentence of the most serious charge.

On 4 January 2023, woman human rights defender Golrokh Iraee was charged with "gathering and colluding against national security" and “propaganda against the state” by Branch 26 of Tehran Revolutionary Court. These charges are based on her participation in protests and her social media posts about protesters who were killed or arrested during the protests which began in September 2022. During the court session, the judge claimed that that the woman human rights defender had intention to attend the protests on 26 September 2022, the day of her arrest which can amount to the charge of “gathering and colluding against national security.” The judge also considered her social media activism during the protests as well as her denunciation of the government for the killing of minors during the protests as an example of “propaganda against state.”

On 29 November 2022, the woman human rights defender was transferred to Evin prison from Qarchak prison after being violently arrested on 26 September 2022 following a house raid. She was transferred to solitary confinement in Qarchak prison.

This is not the first time that the woman human rights defender has been targeted for her human rights work. Golrokh Iraee had been released from Amol prison on 9 May 2022 after having served three years in prison on the charges of “insulting the sacred”, “insulting the supreme leader” and “promoting propaganda against the state”. The charges were in connection with her defence of prisoners’ rights.

The prosecution of Golrokh Iraee is part of a wide crackdown on human rights defenders in the context of the protests. Hundreds of human rights defenders have been arrested, charged and subjected to hefty prison sentences without the adherence to due process of fair trials.

Front Line Defenders is particularly concerned by the breach of international human rights law in Iran's treatment of human rights defenders in detention. It believes that human rights defenders arrested in the context of the 2022 protests are being detained as a result of their legitimate and peaceful human rights work in Iran.

Front Line Defenders urges the authorities in Iran to:

1. Immediately and unconditionally release Golrokh Iraee and all human rights defenders detained especially in the context of protests ongoing since September 2022;
2. Quash the convictions against Golrokh Iraee as Front Line Defenders believes she has been targeted solely as a result of her legitimate human rights work, especially in regard to her advocacy for young protesters killed during the protests;
3. Cease targeting all human rights defenders in Iran, especially in the context of the ongoing protests, and guarantee in all circumstances that they are able to carry out their legitimate human rights activities without fear of reprisal and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.