

Woman, Life, Freedom For Zhina

Her name was **Mahsa**, and her nickname was **Zhina** meaning "life" in Kurdish. As her name suggests, she was full of life but on 16 September 2022, she was murdered by the "morality police of Islamic Republic" in Tehran, because of her "inappropriate" hijab. They buried her hardly injured body while her eyes had the brightest sparkles of life and her smile was the embodiment of her dreams. Her dreams are consigned to the grave, but now her name is the symbol of freedom, the symbol of gaining back our identity and body which have long been taken away by the intruders of our homeland. In a chaotic country named Iran, women are fighting the armed-to-the-teeth troops for their most basic rights with bare hands and the most conciliatory words: Woman, Life, Freedom. This unfair savage war is taking place because the government is shutting down Iranian women who aim to free their enslaved bodies after 40-year domination of ignorance, darkness, and misogyny. As an Iranian feminist who has gone through this dangerous but conscious path despite all the distress, I ask you to be our powerful but lonely voice.

We intend to express this fact to the world that a woman's body is still bruising under the gearwheels of the patriarchal misogynist government of Iran. Do not let the Islamic Republic of Iran reduce our demands by a piece of fabric. We are fighting for our body, soul, identity, and freedom, yet we are alone. One of the ways to show the depth of grief and pain by Iranian women protestors is cutting their beautiful hair these days; a very old ritual in ancient Iran called "**Gisoo-boran**", which is now represented in a different configuration.

As the representative of my people, I declare my demand in three words: "**Woman, Life, Freedom**".