

COLLECTIVE REPORTER.

“No matter the current trends in the media [..], human rights are nothing we can pick and choose from.”

THE HAGUE



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Editors Note

Third year in existence and ninth time publishing. Bigger than we've ever been while still feeling as small as when we started. Our own little community where some of us have been residing for multiple years and others have just started to make their mark. A place of inclusivity and acceptance, where everyone is welcomed, and where you can tell your story in your own way. This is where writers, creatives, dreamers, realists and everyone in between come to grow individually and end up growing together. And with that, Collective grows as well. With two new editions, one of Collective Reporter and one of Collective Thoughts, our people again share the ins and outs of the world and offer to take you with them into their own. We are thrilled that more and more people are joining us on this journey and we hope to stay with you for many more editions to come.

I wish you a happy read,

Nandi van Vliet

As we approach the end of what has been another eventful and newsworthy year, Collective Reporter brings an issue filled with what we could call grim yet poignant current events stories. We admit: Newsworthy news usually means bad news these days. Nevertheless, our mission is to report and inform as accurately and relevantly as possible so that you, as reader, can think about this eventful and newsworthy world that endlessly happens all around us. We certainly can't stop thinking about it.

Whether it's World Cup controversy, Iranian authoritarianism, troubled relations between Hungary and the European Union, or interactions among LGBTQ communities here in The Hague, these are some of the news that helped shape what we will remember about 2022. This issue, Collective Reporter gives you a brief yet crucial glimpse into these events, their context, their communities, and their connection to you, us, and the rest of the world. Of course, we couldn't write about all the events of 2022, but these are the ones that spoke to us, the ones that lingered in our minds.

Hopefully, you can derive from our stories what our writers derived from the very news they covered: a deeper look into complex issues much larger than us. These articles—written and edited with care by curious and passionate students—could be the lens you need for that deeper look: a microscopic view of a telescopic realm.

We look forward to informing you, but also raising your awareness and attention toward some of these pertinent world issues. It is indeed a big world, but if you can at least try to absorb it one news story at a time, perhaps it'll help you—and us—get through another year of living in it.

Gary Izquier

Why Germany's Criticism of the Qatar World Cup Deserves its Own Criticism

by Sara Khermjioui

It is the topic par excellence right now: The World Cup 2022 in Qatar, and the first World Cup taking place in a Middle Eastern country. In many ways, this World Cup has been unique, dominating the media landscape for good and bad reasons.

But while some people dive right into the football spirit, taking their football shirts and merch out of the closet and preparing their mid-game snacks, others have made it a point to boycott this year's FIFA World Cup. "Will you watch the matches or boycott the World Cup?" is a question that has defined the event - not least because of the number of headlines surrounding the deaths of migrant workers.

In 2021, The Guardian was among the first news outlets to claim the death of more than 6500 migrant workers in Qatar in connection with the World Cup infrastructure projects, while the Qatar World Cup Chief estimates the number to be around 400 to 500. Since 2017, Qatar has been working together with the ILO (International Labour Organization) to improve working conditions, having rolled out the first phase of a technical cooperation programme which implements labour reforms and is now in its second phase. Nevertheless, these deaths remain irreversible, regardless of the specific death-toll figures. Especially for family and loved ones, each and every single life lost is invaluable.

Amongst others, the German national football team has been one of the first to voice criticism for the breach of human rights in 2021, by wearing football shirts that together form the word "Human Rights." But amid all the World Cup hustle and bustle, other voices accusing the West of double standards are getting louder and louder. But is the West really acting hypocritically? In the case of Germany—a nation with its own complex migrant labour history—their recent (and past) political actions serve as a prologue against the background of their own nomination as host country for the next biggest international football tournament, the UEFA EURO 2024.



Case 1: Germany's History of Migrant Labour

Qatar is not the first and only country to profit off migrant labour. This is a practice that has been around for centuries and which led countries like Germany or the Netherlands to be as multicultural as they are today. In the 1950s, after World War II, Germany's insufficient workforce prompted the government to conclude agreements with countries like Italy,

Portugal, Turkey, Morocco and many more, calling on their citizens to come to Germany for work. The so-called “Guest Worker Programme.”

Eventually, 14 million migrant workers in total helped rebuild Germany’s economy into what it is today. While 11 million proceeded to return to their home countries, approximately 3 million stayed in Germany, and continued their lives there. It is a history shaped by hard and often dirty work, bad accommodation, and an overall lack of integration and education initiatives. The effects of these practices still echo among many within German society today, manifested through inequality of opportunities or hate attacks, like the racially motivated 2020 attack that killed 9 people in Hanau.

Companies like Germany’s biggest pig slaughterhouse, “Tönnies,” are also being criticised for the way they treat their workers. In Tönnies’ case, workers were reportedly hired from countries like Romania through subcontractors. These types of work contracts allow for mass accommodation, low wages, unjustified terminations, and dismissed safety precautions for higher efficiency, leading to physical injuries. The scandal was revealed in 2020 during the pandemic, intensifying the effects on the individual workers involved.

Case 2. Qatar and the Quest for Gas

Germany’s vice chancellor and federal minister for economics and climate protection Robert Habeck called holding the World Cup in Qatar a “daft idea” which can only be explained through corruption. It is also noteworthy that Habeck himself has travelled to Qatar seeking gas and oil contracts, even bowing in front of Qatar’s trade minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani. During the beginning of the World Cup, Germany secured an LPG Deal with

Qatar effective in 2026 for an initial period of 15 years.

These juxtaposed German views—varying between moral critique against, and financial support for Qatar—underline the mixed priorities within Germany’s self-interests, particularly the ways these priorities exist among the current gas and energy crisis. Nevertheless, there seems to be a notable lack of nuance and understanding from (mainly Western) news and social media towards Qatar’s similarly complex interests: Germany is also willing to make moral compromises in the name of their overarching political and economic interests.

“The German coalition announced the approval of arms exports to Saudi-Arabia. [...] The exact same weapon systems used in Yemen before [...], a breach of the German coalition agreement.”

Case 3. Weapon Export & Saudi Arabia

In October 2022, after 7 years of war, the 6-month long ceasefire in Yemen ended. Yemen is a country that counts around 380.000 deaths, 4 million refugees, and 19 million people suffering from hunger. It is a country that has served as a battlefield for Saudi-Arabia’s proxy war for many years, where hospitals, schools and kindergartens are routinely bombarded. Now, close to the expiration of the conflict’s most recent ceasefire, the German chancellor Olaf Scholz visited Saudi-Arabia at the end of September, negotiating German economic interests in the context of the energy crisis.

Closely after, the German coalition announced the approval of arms exports to Saudi-Arabia. It specifically concerns the

equipment and armament of combat aircraft as well as ammunition, the exact same weapon systems used in Yemen before. This decision constituted a breach of the German coalition agreement, a coalition based on elections from September 2021 by the German people. Once again, this highlights the German government's own policy-based moral compromises aimed at foregoing human rights concerns over the procurement of gas and hydrogen for its own people. It shows that acting in self-interest is not exclusive to Middle Eastern politics.

“No matter the current trends in the media [...], human rights are nothing we can pick and choose from.”

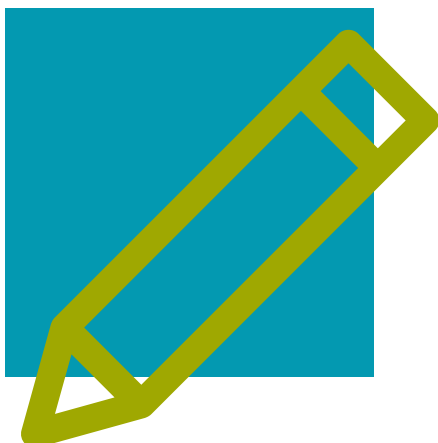
Future Outlook

Even in the context of sports, judging based on the cases presented previously, Germany's upcoming host nomination for the UEFA European Championship in 2024 does not have a clean human rights slate. Nevertheless, the criticism for Qatar persists as a predominant Western media topic. These media biases can divert attention from equally important issues and have an impactful effect on individuals and



society, inciting and intensifying hostilities, and reinforcing unnecessary or unhelpful stereotypes.

This culture of focused blame that is maintained is useless and not healthy, unless everyone tries to put real action and commitment behind their words. In this ever-so-globalised world we live in, it must start with educating ourselves and advocating for all human rights issues around the world, no matter the current trends in the media. In the end, human rights are nothing we can pick and choose from.



Sara is a third year “International Communication Management” student and has complemented her major with a minor in “Peacebuilding, Justice and Human Rights.” By joining the Collective. Reporter magazine, she would like to cover topics and choose angels underrepresented in the media and inspire students to learn more about them.

Within the city of The Hague, many associations dedicate themselves to providing safe spaces for anyone from the LGBTQ+ community who needs support, or an opportunity to just be themselves. Such is, for instance, the case of the Hangout 070, which organises LGBTQ+ events focusing on engaging people of colour as well as immigrants. Their goal is to empower and allow people to shape themselves in their own terms. With that idea in mind, they acquired The House, a place that provides anyone willing to respect their bylines with safety, fun and the opportunity to meet nice people and recharge.



The Hang-Out 070 logo. (n.d.). The Hang-Out 070 Queer Support the Hague.

Such community-oriented spaces have also been sprouting within universities in The Hague. For instance, Haagse Regenbogen was created at The Hague University of Applied Sciences to focus on LGBTQ+ employees and students in need for inclusion, appreciation and safety. The creation of Haagse Regenbogen took place after a similar student-led organisation, Proud, dissolved due to the lockdown enforced during the COVID-19 pandemic. Not only has the founder of Proud and Haagse Regenbogen (who wishes to remain anonymous) worked hard to see both organisations appear and grow, but they also had to watch the group struggle to remain active while counting with few members and little support. Still, during our interview, they stated that there is a need for such an association within The Hague University of Applied Sciences.

If my interviews with the co-founder of the Haagse Regenbogen and a volunteer from the Hangout 070 showed me anything, it was that they, and many of their colleagues, joined these organisations out of a common need. It was a personal search to find something they could not find elsewhere. According to them, it all came back to the idea of safety. This concept encompasses many day-to-day situations that range from being safe while walking down the street and getting appropriate medical treatment to not having to face a backlash and hurtful side comments for being true to yourself. For both of them, as well as other interviewees that belong to the queer community in the Hague, this is not always the case.



Digitale, E. (2022). Better mental health found among transgender people who started hormones as teens. Stanford Medicine.

Getting medical attention and being taken seriously by a doctor in the Netherlands is a challenge. I have often heard friends, acquaintances, and even seen news media share stories of people who have been refused medical treatment that they consider necessary due to a series of symptoms or long periods of sickness. This is also the case for members of the queer community who want to transition. During their interview, a volunteer from the Hangout 070 explained how they welcomed people who felt alone in their fight against the system. Not only was it related to healthcare not covering the procedures, but also by the feeling that they had to prove they were “trans enough” and “strong enough” to be able to finally access the treatment.



NOS (2020). *Pride in The Hague - Flags at Hofvijver*

"Besides the main theme of safety and looking for safer spaces in these kinds of organisations, there was also an underlying need to find people who understand what one is going through".

For instance, at Amsterdam's Center of Expertise on Gender Dysphoria, one of the first places in the world where children could receive treatment for gender dysphoria, has a transitioning protocol that has six months of tests and therapy before any treatment is considered. From there, patients might need to wait several years before receiving hormone treatments or undergo surgery if they chose to do so.

However, this is not the only situation in which interviewees reported feeling unsafe. The co-founder of the Haagse Regenbogen explained how she feels the need to constantly fight a system that does not support her, on top of snide comments and hurtful jokes from peers and classmates every now and then. Another interviewee (who also chose to remain anonymous) mentioned how they do not feel safe sharing their involvement with the queer community because they know that a significant amount of people will not be accepting. Their fear is that if anyone were to find out, their family and friends would immediately cut ties with them, and they would be left to deal with an already difficult life on their own.

During many of the conversations, interviewees mentioned that they feel their straight, cisgender friends do not understand –and even dismiss– the worries, concerns and fears that come with being queer. Sometimes, they even mentioned encountering jokes and insensitive comments when they brought up a new relationship, or having a new work position.

The last question of all interviews was what they would like to say to those making decisions and in general the people around them. The common element among all the answers was to not only celebrate how far the Netherlands has come, but also to continue moving forward. There is a Dutch saying that can be translated to “don't fix what is not broken”, but as the volunteer at the Hangout 070 and the co-founder of the Haagse Regenbogen show through their work: not everything is fine and there is still a lot of room for improvement.

Ju is a second-year Communication student with a big passion for books and writing. She is a work in progress that is continuously trying to be a verb instead of a noun.



Understanding the Black Sheep of the EU: The Underlying Dynamics of Hungarian Politics

by Lili Zselyke Lévai

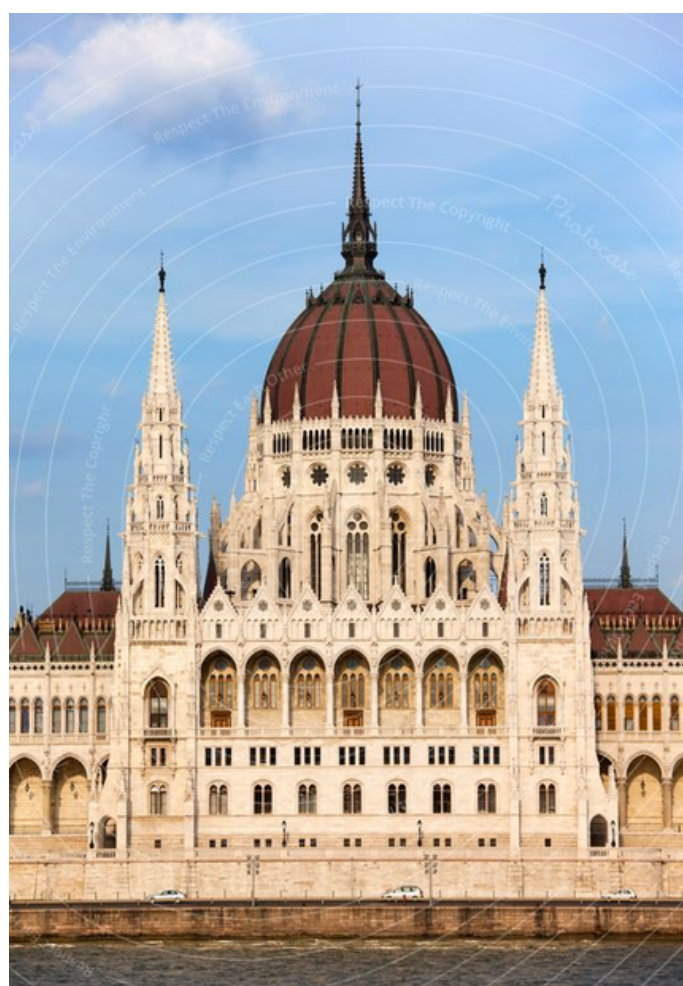
Earlier in September, Hungary achieved a turning point in politics as MEPs declared[1] that “Hungary can no longer be considered a full democracy”. Now, as rule of law procedures were triggered under Article 7 of the Treaty of the European Union, Hungary has lost access to a significant amount of EU-backed funds[1].

Though some within European politics believe this was the right move, its consequences are suffered by a politically isolated Hungarian population, not just its government.

"Nevertheless, Brussels' efforts aim to influence Hungary's government precisely by appealing to its population to act with their vote next election season.

Or at least that's the plan".

As Brussels is perhaps all too aware, more than three million[2] Hungarians re-elected the leading party in 2022. For many in Europe—both in and out of politics—the reasons for this are hard to grasp. To understand Hungary's political dynamics and its potential pathways, one must observe the social construction of the country just as closely as its political and economic motions. After all, citizens are the one “rolling the dice” over their future.



*Hungarian Parliament Building in Budapest. (n.d).
Photo Case.*

Despite the last twenty years of cooperation with the West, most Hungarians still have a critical view over the initiatives, ideas, and attitudes of the “other side of the Wall,” in this case the western side. This sociocultural division, built up during and after the Soviet era, has not disappeared for some.

The EU places a strong emphasis on closing the gap of regional inequalities—like balancing out the development level of different member states. However, in the case of Hungary (and other post-Soviet states), these actions are not enough since the root of the problem lies within the perception of the Hungarian citizens. It takes time to demolish a deeply embedded conception which built up over hundreds of years among the society.

“Just as an economic lagging behind cannot be solved in a couple of years (Hungary is still significantly less prosperous than the West), “updating” the viewpoint of an entire population (specifically the older generations who are currently in charge of the decision-making) requires a longer time-period.”

Already, this ‘stuck-up’ mind-set of the people feeds the country’s problems. The contemporary political setting of Hungary is reinforced through both its society and its past. Even before the Soviet era, Hungary’s history involved a series of deeply disturbing events, from its occupation by the Turkish empire, through Austrian suppression, and straight into the horror of the first and second World Wars.

Eventually, the circle concludes with Communist occupation lasting until 1989, the fall of the well-known Berlin Wall. The trauma of being abandoned by the West—the Hungarian revolution of 1956 was encouraged by the West with promises that were never

fulfilled with action—is deeply ingrained in the thinking of the ‘baby boomers’ generation (aged between 58–76). Consequently, the forty years spent under the umbrella of the Soviet Union created a setback not just for the economic dimension, but for the sociocultural as well.



Hungary - The Revolution of 1989 - Exhibits. (n.d.). Digi Lab.

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That contemporary context has not changed much; today’s events are advancing much like those of the past. The only distinct fact is that now the oppression is not imposed from the external environment, but spread from within the heart of the country. The historical background underpins the mind-set of Hungarian society. But there is another notion to consider: How can any loud voice rise against the current situation?

Despite the authoritative oppression aimed at suppressing dissent, how is it possible that there are still protests taking place? This shows that not all Hungarians have sunk into pessimistic, history-influenced apathy.

understanding of each other's perceptions. Urban people blame rural habitants of being too conservative and lagging, but invest little effort into recognizing their angle and aiding the rise of consciousness.



Bayer, L. (2021). Thousands defy Orbán with festive Pride parade backing gay rights in Hungary.

Protests are, as a phenomenon in the capital city of Budapest, representative of “only” a fragmentation of the Hungarian population—about two million people out of a national population of about ten million. The national polls reveal a severe regional development disparity between the rural areas and more urban areas like Budapest. This data is not only related to the economic dimension, but also interrupts the social coherence of the country. For instance, a quarter of Hungarian households do not have internet installed and most of those households are situated in the backcountry. Consequently, those communities possess limited access to information; thus, their perception of the world and its affairs are distorted and biased due to the lack of diversity of sources that they are exposed to.

Unfortunately, this division results in a loss of social connectivity between urban citizens and the other 80% of the population, the rural inhabitants. It is a common reality of distant family branches (e.g. in case of young generation of relatives moving to cities from rural areas) to be torn apart simply as a result of the lack of

It's important to consider that rural residents

have minimal understanding of digital reality. Therefore, there is a tendency among them to treat cash as the only reliable way to spend and save. But, inflation then decreases the worth of cash. Explaining the notion of market tendencies—although useful—will not convince rural habitants on larger issues. This is where lack of patience and understanding easily destroy relations between left-right and urban-rural dichotomies.

The metropolitan perspective forgets that “what we already know determines what we are able to learn”, as the author Joshua Foer[3] writes. Thus, a resident of a town who grew up in a traditional environment will consider cash reliable until a subtle and slow change sweeps through the community and integrates new norms. But this usually happens slowly. In addition, most people are not a driver of change. Merely, this division is further deepened on the motion of mutual disrespect between the geographically scattered levels of society.

"Supplementary to this horizontal classification of the social groups, there is a vertical layering as well. Understanding social classes is fundamental to oversee their relation to the current regime. Historian Tibor Valuch distinguishes three elite classes (political, economic, and cultural elite), the “class of means”, the middle-class and the marginalised".



Gulyas, V. (2022). *Budapest Protest Swells to 80,000 to Support Hungary's Teachers*. Bloomberg.

The political elite drastically transformed after the regime change of 1989; however, the last thirty years were adequate time for new and solid political elites to formulate. These elite have shaped the political landscape of Hungary for the last 15 years. Considering recent discoveries on corruption, this class greatly overlaps with the current economic elite.

While the middle class is intrinsically hard to characterise, it has been held to be the core of a well-functioning society. During the 1980s, socialism created a broad middle class in Hungary; regardless, they were in the “proletarian” class when comparing their living standard to a global level. This explains that leftover Hungarian tendency to accept this struggling way of life. Unfortunately, after the regime change of 1989, most of that middle class moved even further down in terms of social classification. As a result, the contemporary Hungarian middle class shrunk and, some would argue, almost ceased to exist. Again, this highlights the idea of an incoherent societal structure which leads to an inconsistently formed nation (from both an economic and political angle as well). Additionally, the current regime directly bombards that still existing small fraction of the middle class with

regulations. Naturally, this is not by accident, as mentioned the middle class is historically the layer of the society which generates new trends, demands and above all: change.

Today, 13 per cent of Hungarian society lives under the national poverty line; at the same time this also means that two out of three Hungarians live under the Paneuropean poverty line. Unfortunately, more and more households are falling under the poverty line as a result of the current external circumstances (higher energy prices and growing inflation, to name a few). In recent years, the rural society’s orientation towards the governmental party was attributed to their unawareness regarding the action-consequence relations in politics. It happens that the current government’s effort to fulfil the interests of this class is enough for them to vouch for them repeatedly. This is a highly important notion to be accepted since only this way the motive of the lower class is understood and could be changed.

Coming back to the question of loud voices and protests, it is now evident that the societal divisions does not allow for a broader action to materialise itself in the country. Since officially the political system is democratic in Hungary, the electoral process is declared to be legal. **13**

Consequently, even if Budapest is turned upside down by the narrow middle-class, their achievements are going to be limited due to the social ceiling and geographic restraints.

While the lower class is not necessarily manipulated into acting against their own needs, they do seem to influence the Hungarian audience. The role of common enemy is placed on the European Union by Hungarian political circles. The society is continuously bombarded with advertisements setting the EU as the scapegoat for governmental failures. Nevertheless, according to the Eurobarometer, the perception of the EU among the society is relatively highly placed. This could be explained by the deception that lies within the terminology. It is clearly set that the EU only could be referred to as “Brussels” in a negative setting. Behind the scenes, politicians are on their way to set an agreement with the EU about receiving the crucially needed RRF. In front of the ‘audience’ the show of the scapegoat is put on - with the single change of one term: from EU to Brussels. Zoltán Somogyi[1], sociologist explained that the propaganda is not about Brussels, the government does not want to influence there, they focus on the dynamics inside the country.

Despite this lengthy explanation, the thought chain of Hungarian voters remains a patchwork of understanding. Regardless, it hopefully abstracts the perception of it from the Western centralised view—even more so, from the judgement of the scarce politically educated critics in Hungary. It is clear: Hungarians' perception of welfare society must be changed or even created.

Zselyke is a second year fast-track European Studies student at THUAS. Already moving to the Hague from Hungary, now she is about to move to France for her exchange semester. Besides her studies, she leads a dynamic life full of art and writing.



Nevertheless, it is going to be a hard task under the current government that is supplying most of the population with reasonable (to a Hungarian standard) living conditions and will continue to do so in the coming years.

The political leverage is slipping out of the hands of democratic states and potentially into the hands of right-wing groupings. For any minds practised in international relations it is not surprising – the recession eras (like the one the world is living through right now) are historically linked to the emergence of extremists. C. M. Gibson[4] writes that alienation, grief, and anger are the drivers of extremism. Democracies might not actually be able to fully deliver the healthy prosperity to humanity that leaders might promise. Nevertheless, the radical movements that have repeatedly emerged to oppose democratic systems usually tend to fade away. Time will show if Hungary’s current radical political movement falls under this pattern

[1] <https://www.cmcdonaldgibson.com>

2] <https://vtr.valasztas.hu/ogy2022>

[3] <https://joshuafoer.com/> - J. Foer’s writing has appeared in The New Yorker, National Geographic, Esquire, Slate, Outside, the New York Times, and other publications.

[4] <https://markamonitor.hu/kikicsoda/somogyi-zoltan-9090/>

Hijabs in Iran: The Fight for Freedom

By Amina Kosovac

On September 13, 2022, Mahsa Amini was arrested by the Iranian morality police in Tehran. Her crime was the violation of Iran's headscarf law, which makes wearing the hijab obligatory for all Iranian women, regardless of religion.

Amini was taken to a detention center, where she died three days later, on September 16, from a heart attack. Her family, however, has accused the Iranian government of murdering her and subsequently covering up the crime. Meanwhile, reports have indicated that her death was caused by a skull fracture from heavy blows to her head*.

The now-infamous incident has caused massive outrage around the world and sparked hundreds of protests. The United Nations has condemned the violence performed by Iran's morality police and has called for an independent investigation into the incident. The death of Mahsa Amini has not only highlighted the brutal acts of violence against women, but also the crumbling regime in Iran.

"Iran's greatest victims under the authoritarian regime are the Iranian people."

Protests over Amini's death started on September 17 and have not stopped since. The current situation in Iran has been escalating for a while, with videos (that have since gone viral) depicting police assaulting protestors.

Nevertheless, the protests have not ceased. For many Iranians, the incident has not only been about women's rights and the hijab law but also about the population's fundamental rights. Iran's greatest victims under the authoritarian regime are the Iranian people. The regime has, for decades, suppressed freedom and basic human rights, affecting the lives of their people.



*Rallies in support of the Iranian protesters have been held around the world
(source: BBC)*

Social media reports, showing the execution of Iranian protestors, have now been shared**, with some suggesting that women who were detained will be raped before execution to prevent them from entering heaven. Iran's practice of violating young girls before execution can be dated back to the 1980s (and of course, the weaponization of sexual violence against women has long been historically recorded).

Justice for Iran has since then been trying to disprove the denials regarding the victims of rape before execution. On social media Amini's death has been more about the feminist side of it, however, both sides understand that this issue reaches beyond the scope of the hijab.

*David Gritten, "Iran Protests: Police fire on Mahsa Amini mourners – witnesses" in BBC, 26.10.2022.

**Tamara Qiblawi, Barbara Arvanitidis, Nima Elgabir, Alex Platt, Artemis Moshtaghian, Gianluca Mezzofiore, Celine Alkhalidi and Muhammed Jambaz, "How Iran's security forces use rape to quell protests" in CNN, 21.11.2022.

A spokesman for a Human Rights organization said that “women started this wave of protest, but everyone else joined. All of Iran is united”. Her death has been an influential representation of the total discontent among the Iranians. The people of Iran no longer believe in the regime, and the need for change is growing daily.

The Iranian government has responded violently to these protests. Many people have been injured, detained, or killed in the past few months. There is deep-seated anger in Iran over the policies set by the government. Adding insult to injury, Iran’s economy has collapsed in recent years, while inequality has spiked even more. Especially young people have gone to the streets to protest inequality and human rights violations. Furthermore, the regime has lost legitimacy among some of its core supporters, which is believed to be due to the terrible violence inflicted upon past demonstrators. The anger and dissatisfaction that has been brewing for years under the Iranian government, has now formed into a full-blown revolution.

A spokesman for a Human Rights organization said that “women started this wave of protest, but everyone else joined. All of Iran is united” .

It is unclear if the protests can topple the regime, but one thing is clear, the Iranian people will not cease to stop fighting for their fundamental rights. Iran Human Rights has called for international reaction, and in November the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the situation in Iran is a “full – fledged human rights crisis”. Whether Iran will witness any meaningful change in its government's policies is unclear. For now, the Iranian people struggle and protest for a better future, a sentiment shared by others worldwide, Amini’s death (and subsequent deaths during the protests) seems not to have been in vain. As the Iranian people struggle, the world continues to watch and wait for human rights to be upheld.

"Iran’s greatest victims under the authoritarian regime are the Iranian people."

The situation in Iran has not gotten any better since the start of the protests, and the tensions only keep rising. Many people have died, and the death toll does not seem to stop. Iran is one of the most sanctioned countries in the world, and many goods are blocked. The people of Iran are suffering, with no way of even getting basic medicine.

Amina is from Norway. She's an ICM student, and loves to read. She has studied political science before which sparked her interest in writing about politics for the Collective Reporter.



***Joshua Askew, «Iran protests: What caused them? Are they different this time? Will the regime fall? In EuroNews, 11.12.2022.

****Askew, «Iran protests: What caused them? Are they different this time? Will the regime fall?»

*****Askew, «Iran protests: What caused them? Are they different this time? Will the regime fall?»

*****Teela Rebane, Adam Pourahmadi and Jomana Karadsheh, “Iran hangs protesters in first known execution related to mass demonstrations” In CNN, 08.12.2022

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What is YOUR point of view?

Once you feel ready to share it with the world, reach out to us and send us what you wrote (anonymous or not).

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