

公益社団法人 日本外国特派員協会

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan

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FoP STATEMENT ON THE JAILING OF IRANIAN JOURNALISTS NILOOFAR HAMEDI AND ELAHEH MOHAMMADI

The FCCJ condemns the October 22nd jailing of two female journalists in Iran for covering the story of the death of an Iranian teenager after an alleged assault by morality police.

One of the journalists, Niloofar Hamed, worked for the reformist Shargh newspaper. She was among the first to report the incident involving 16-year-old Armita Geravand, who was declared brain dead this week after collapsing on a train following an alleged scuffle with morality police.

Hamed was sentenced to a total of 13 years in prison on charges of “collusion to commit crimes against the country’s security,” according to the state-run Mizan News. Last year, Iranian intelligence accused her of using her role as a journalist as cover to stir dissent.

The other journalist, Elaheh Mohammadi, worked for reformist newspaper Ham-Mihan, and was sentenced to a total of 12 years in prison on similar charges, according to Mizan.

Iranian authorities stated that Geravand's collapse at the Shohada metro station in Tehran was due to low blood pressure. Human rights activists say the morality police ordered Geravand to adjust her hijab, which resulted in a physical altercation and her suffering a head trauma.

Since the death of the 22-year-old Mahsa Amini last year under similarly suspicious circumstances, Iran has passed even more draconian legislation imposing much harsher penalties on women who breach the country’s already strict hijab rules.

FCCJ applauds efforts by journalists like Niloofar and Elaheh to uncover the truth behind such tragedies. We urge that these unjust sentences be overturned.

FCCJ Freedom of the Press Committee