Iran Hijab Row: A War Against An Islamic Obligation

By Mohammad Tausif October 26, 2022

What began as a call for justice has evolved into an unarmed struggle against Islam. If you don't live under a rock and have a social media account, you must have come across the protests that have been going on in Iran since mid-September. We recently learned that the Hijab of Iranian women is the primary concern of the Western media. I don't know about you, but I can hear the cries of "liberation" from the people of Iran, just as we have heard before from people in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Somalia, Libya, Ethiopia, and Lebanon.

Before delving into the topic, we need to address the central objective of this issue, the hijab. Over the past five weeks, a lot of misinformation about the hijab has spread. Many people appearing on television under Muslim names were trying to become a *Mufti* (Muslim jurist expert) and were making strange and unheard-of judgments about the hijab. Even social media is inundated with discussions about whether the hijab is a choice or an obligation. So, let's first understand the ruling on hijab.

The Obligation of Hijab in Islam

In the Qur'an, the term hijab refers to a partition or curtain in the literal or metaphorical sense. It is a screen of some sort that partitions an individual from another. In the Quran, the obligation of the Hijab was first given in Surah al-Noor and then in *Surah al-Ahzah*.

There is a unanimous agreement (*ijma*') among all Islamic scholars that hijab is obligatory for all Muslim women who have reached the age of puberty. This general obligation is indicated by the verse in which Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"O Prophet! Tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to draw their cloaks (veils) all over their bodies (i.e. screen themselves completely except the eyes or one eye to see the way). That will be better, that they should be known (as free respectable women) so as not to be annoyed. And Allah is Ever Oft-Forgiving, Most Merciful." [al-Ahzab 33:59]

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"And tell the believing women to lower their gaze (from looking at forbidden things), and protect their private parts (from illegal sexual acts) and not to show off their adornment except only that which is apparent (like both eyes for necessity to see the way, or outer palms of hands or one eye or dress like veil, gloves, headcover, apron), and to draw their veils all over Juyoobihinna (i.e. their bodies, faces, necks and bosoms) and not to reveal their adornment except to their husbands, or their fathers, or their husband's fathers, or their sons, or their husband's sons, or their brothers or their brother's sons, or their sister's sons, or their (Muslim) women (i.e. their sisters in Islam),

or the (female) slaves whom their right hands possess, or old male servants who lack vigour, or small children who have no sense of feminine sex. And let them not stamp their feet so as to reveal what they hide of their adornment. And all of you beg Allaah to forgive you all, O believers, that you may be successful" [al-Noor 24:31]

The women of the *Muhajirin* (first converts who emigrated from Makkah to Madinah) and *Ansar* (local inhabitants of Madinah who accepted Islam) obeyed that command.

'Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) said: "May Allah have mercy on the first Muhajir women. When Allah revealed the words 'and to draw their veils all over Juyubihinna (i.e. their bodies, faces, necks and bosoms)' [al-Nur 24:31] they tore their aprons and covered their faces (ikhtamarna) with them." (Narrated by al-Bukhari, 4480; Abu Dawud, 4102)

There are many hadiths on the obligation of the Hijab, but it will be unnecessary to quote them all because there is no dispute among the scholars regarding this issue. Although, there is a dispute among scholars regarding the covering of the face. But we will not be discussing that here. I will only talk about the general ruling, which is accepted by all.

Does Islam Force Muslim Women to Wear Hijab?

This is a common question brought up by the liberals and the West. While they are themselves trying to enforce their liberal and secular ideologies on everyone. For example, you can't say anything against the LGBTQ. You don't have the right to stop your child from undergoing gender transformation in their country. It is clear double standards which be exposed further, In Sha Allah.

Coming to the question, does Islam force Muslim women to wear hijab? The answer is Yes, Islam does force Muslim women to cover. Because if they don't, they are liable for divine punishment according to Islam. So that is a type of coercion: if you don't obey, you could get punished. That is force.

I often see the *Hijabi* sisters saying that "*Hijab is my choice*," which is totally false because the fact that you are willingly abiding by Islamic law regarding hijab does not mean that there is any less force involved. I willingly abide by traffic laws. That does not mean that the secular state is *not* forcing traffic laws onto me. Or any other set of laws.

Secondly, in an Islamic nation or *Khilafah*, even if women did not want to wear hijab willingly, they would be forced to do so. This is what Islamic ethics requires. Similarly, if men did not want to refrain from drinking alcohol, engaging in fornication, or dealing in *riba* (interest), the Islamic authority would also force them to stop.

Is there anything wrong with forcing the populace to abide by the law? Of course not. No society could exist without some form of force. So, those who want to criticize Islam for its coercive aspects are forwarding quite a silly argument.

Just like any legal system, Islam allows free choice in some domains and restricts free choice in others. The question is, are those allowances vs. restrictions rationally defensible? Yes, they are, unlike many of the allowances vs. restrictions in liberal secular states. For example, is it really a good idea to allow essentially unrestricted sexual freedom? This is arguably the worst, most destructive freedom that has been unleashed on mankind. (Answer: The Muslim Skeptic)

What Has Happened in Iran?

I guess even you must have read stuff online like "Justice for Mahsa Amini" or "Iran police killed Mahsa Amini." Who is Mahsa Amini? What happened to her? Did the Iran police kill her? Before we dive into the answers to these questions, lets understand the Iran law regarding Hijab.

The Hijab law of Iran

In 1925, Reza Shah rose to power, and a new era began marked by a turn from Islamic customs toward Western ways of thought. In 1936 the Hijab was <u>banned</u> in Iran as part of the modernization effort. During the Iranian Revolution four decades later, in 1978-79, publicly wearing a hijab became a symbol of protest against the monarchy.

On March 7, 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's revolutionary supreme leader, made the garment mandatory. Iran <u>passed</u> a law in 1981 mandating that women wear the Hijab in public. In 1996, Article 638 of the Islamic Penal Code added a penalty of imprisonment anywhere from ten days to two months to 74 lashes to the possible penalties for doing otherwise.

The Morality Police

In the 1980s, the Islamic Revolution Committees served the function of the Islamic religious police in Iran. In 2005, the Morality police, or *Gasht-e-Ershad*, became its successor organization with the task of ensuring the respect of Islamic morals. To understand in Islamic terms this unit is basically used for *Amr bil Maroof wa Nahi 'anil Munkar* i.e. enjoining good and forbidding evil. The Morality police report to the Supreme Leader of Iran.

On 2013's Iranian Mother's Day, the patrols rewarded women with flowers for wearing *chador* (the preferred hijab).

According to Iran's Interior Minister, in a three-month period in 2014, 220,000 women were taken to police stations and signed statements there promising to wear hijabs, 19,000 were given hair-covering notices, and 9,000 were <u>detained</u>. In 2014, the police additionally gave warnings and guidance to <u>3.6 million</u> other Iranians who failed to follow the Islamic dress code.

In <u>2015</u>, in an eight-month period police in Tehran stopped 40,000 women driving in Tehran for not obeying Islamic rules of proper dress, and seized the cars of most of them, generally for a week. In <u>2016</u>, Tehran used 7,000 undercover Guidance Patrol officers to catch violators of the Islamic dress code.

Is This Law in Accordance with Islam?

One of the most common misunderstandings, even among Muslims, is that Iran is an Islamic state. Many think countries like Iran or Saudi Arabia are Islamic, which is untrue. An Islamic government is run: by a *Khalifah* (leader) according to *Shariah* (Islamic laws). Currently, no country in the World is entirely legislated according to *Shariah*.

A country like Iran can be called a Muslim country like Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, and others, whose constitution is based: on the Secular Liberal system. However, they are some laws that they take from the *Shariah*. The Hijab law of Iran is an example of such.

Since Hijab is an obligation, the *Khalifah* must enforce Hijab on his land. But there is no death penalty for this law in Islam. The punishment for not wearing a proper Hijab is to be decided by the scholars of that land.

So, now you know the history of the Hijab law in Iran and how the morality police work. It must be clear that this is not something new in Iran, as these laws have been in effect for more than 40 years. Although there have been some protests earlier against these laws, this is the first time something has happened on such a big scale that it has gained global attention. Why? What happened on the 13th of September?

The Mahsa Amini Incident

Mahsa Amini, who also went by the name Jhina, was a 22-year-old woman from the western city of Saqqez in Iran's Kurdistan province. The Iranian Kurdish woman before starting university had gone to Tehran with her parents and 17-year-old brother to visit relatives. On September 13, Amini, her brother and female relatives went out in the capital. On leaving the Haghani underground station at 6:30 in the evening, the morality police stopped them, arresting Jhina and her relatives. Officials have claimed that Amini was detained for breaking the Iranian law requiring women to cover their hair with a headscarf and their limbs with loose clothing. Amini's brother, Kiarash tried to tell the police that they were in Tehran for the first time and did not know the (local) traditions. They told him they were taking Mahsa to the station and she would be released after one-hour of "re-education class".

Kiarash described what happened inside the station to the <u>IranWire</u>: "When I got to the front of the building, there were 60 or 70 people there carrying clothes for the detained women inside. After a few of them were released, we suddenly heard screams. All of us were banging on the doors. All of a sudden, the agents rushed out of the building and attacked us with batons and teargas. My whole body is black and blue and my eyes have been burning since last night. Five minutes later an ambulance left the building."

One of the other young women "arrested" by the patrol that night, who asked to be named as Sadaf, told IranWire: "I wasn't in the same van as Mahsa. But we were together in Vozara, and I was there the moment she fell. They took away our mobile phones and said all of us were to sit on one side [of the room]. Right after I sat down, I saw one of us fall to the ground and hit her head on the chair. A woman belonging to the morality patrol was standing over her."

The group tried to revive Mahsa by lifting her, splashing water on her face and calling to her, but she was unresponsive. The first professional medic, Sadaf said, arrived very quickly. "It seemed like they had their own paramedics there – I don't know – because in less than two minutes one of them was

examining Mahsa. Everyhody was screaming and crying. The girl who was holding Mahsa in her arms said: Be quiet. Her blood pressure has dropped. It's nothing.' At that moment the paramedic was injecting something into Mahsa's arm. But suddenly he laid her out on the floor and started giving her CPR. I looked at Mahsa's face. You could only see whites of her eyes. We were all horrified. We screamed, and shouted: You murderers! You killed her!"

They were told, a <u>source</u> at Tehran Emergency Services said, that Mahsa had suffered "a cardiac arrest". A decision was taken on the spot to take Mahsa to hospital. "Under normal conditions, and in cases when the patient is in a stable condition, emergency services must take the patient to a government or university hospital. But when they're in a critical condition they have to be taken to the nearest medical center. That's why Kasra Hospital was chosen."

At 8:17 on Tuesday, doctors told the family that Mahsa could not be saved. They <u>said</u> she had suffered a heart attack and a stroke, and although her heart continued to beat, her brain was no longer functioning. Unfortunately, on the 16th of September, Mahsa died in Kasra Hospital.

But this is not where things end, an eyewitness has <u>told</u> Iran International that Mahsa Amini who died in police custody had told her in a detention room that an officer had hit her on the head. She said that she heard from others in the police station that Mahsa Amini had hesitated to step out of the police van that brought her to the station. At that point a ranking police officer had hit her on the head and forced her out of the van.

The top medical official in the southern province of Hormozgan has <u>rejected</u> some Iranian officials' claims that Mahsa Amini, a young woman who died after apparently being beaten by morality police, suffered a heart attack, saying the most likely cause of her death was a blow to the head. But the Iranian officials have rejected the accusations, with Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi claiming that Amini had a previous illness and that the morality police "basically do not have the tools to beat the detainees."

Was Mahsa Amini Beaten to Death? The Propaganda of the West

After the death of Mahsa Amini, a current of distortions started flowing throughout social media and news outlets on the death of the young Iranian woman, who passed away after collapsing at the police station.

Western-funded media jumped quickly to the trend, making sure to take the chance to attack Iran and its policies. Of course, anti-Iranian activists, pro-MKO influencers, and other social media users also went with the flow. Before any official statement was made, Iran was accused of deliberate killing, and "Mahsa was brutally killed by Iranian police" was the talk of the town. Unsurprisingly, these headlines come as part of a systematic campaign to attack Iran and its Hijab law and cause turmoil in the country.

For instance, the so-called Iran International television news network <u>reported</u> that the young Iranian woman died after being beaten to death by "hijab police." Interestingly, the channel has written a series of articles on the topic. However, none of its articles refer to credible sources. Even the Twitter pages that it <u>referred</u> to as well as the hyperlinks it put into its stories do not exist. It also claimed that the CT scan showed concussions and injuries, unlike what credible local sources reported.

The Guardian also <u>wrote</u> a piece under the title "Iranian woman dies 'after being beaten by morality police' over hijab law." Meanwhile, the BBC <u>quoted</u> reports that officers beat Ms. Amini's head with a baton and banged her head against one of their vehicles.

New news continues to come from the country every hour confusing the citizens of Iran. Finally, Iran released a CCTV footage of the station and published images in which Amini could be seen.

Two different views emerged at the time the country was mixed. Has Mahsa Amini been killed? Or did she die of natural causes?

In the CCTV footage released by the police, Mahsa Amini is seen fit and routine, and then we can see her collapsing on the ground while hitting her head on a chair. Reminding you, this was also reported to IranWire by Sadaf, the young lady who was also arrested that night.

An important point to note here is that in the <u>video</u>, we can see that Amini is walking normally, and there is no stress or any movement from which we can understand that her death has happened due to the police torture.

After the CT scans of her brain were released: by the hospital, the officials said that she died in police custody not due to any beating but of pre-existing brain condition and an operation conducted when she was five. Neurologists have stated that the CT scans show the psychological stress was caused: by the previous brain operation.

Also, forensic doctors confirmed there were no signs of bruising, swelling, or fracture in her skull or her body. Director General of Forensic Medicine in Tehran Province, Mehdi Faruzesh, said the autopsy conducted on Mahsa Amini's body revealed no bleeding or rupture in her internal organs. He <u>said</u> more time is needed to find out the actual cause of Amini's death in order to issue a final report based on the results of the analysis of the taken samples. He also noted that "Mahsa Amini underwent brain surgery at a hospital in Tehran in 2006."

Iran's Legal Medicine Organization has released the results of its investigation into the case of Mahsa Amini, saying that her controversial death was caused by an illness rather than alleged blows to the head or other vital body organs.

The official medical report was released on the 7th of October, some three weeks after the 22-year-old Iranian woman fainted at a police station and was pronounced dead days later on September 16 at a Tehran hospital.

"According to hospital documents, the study of CT scans of the brain and lungs, results of physical examination of the body and an autopsy, and pathological tests, the death of the individual was not caused by blows to her head, vital organs and limbs," said the report.

The Liberals Backed Protest

What made the people in more than 80 cities across Iran hit the streets? Was it for the death of a 22-year-old lady? Was it against the brutality of the morality police? Or was it something completely different?

The protests started with a few people on September 16 when the death of Mahsa Amini was made official. On September 17, when Ms. Amini was buried in her hometown Saqez, a crowd gathered outside the Saqez Governor's office to stage a protest. In the following days, protests intensified and spread across the country.

The protests soon turned into violent riots, with rioters going on the rampage across the country, <u>attacking</u> security officers, resorting to vandalism against public property, and desecrating <u>mosques</u>. Many such videos are being circulated in the media in which women are <u>burning</u> hijab and dancing around that fire even cutting their hair.

Now, the question is, who are these people protesting against hijab, dancing on the streets, and cutting their hair? What is their ideology? You can see on Twitter that the people supporting these protests are Iranian Journalists and activists living in the West. They are showing their support for the protests while sitting in their drawing rooms, cutting their hair, and giving solidarity. They are liberals who have no connection to the religion and are attacking Islam. They want to take over hijab from the heads of Muslim women and want to throw them into the worst society like that in Europe and America. They want Muslim women to be like them, dress like them, follow them and adapt their ideology.

The worst kind of protest took place in Amsterdam, where a woman stood <u>naked</u> in front of thousands of people, speaking in Farsi and showing solidarity with the Iranian women. A respected person of any religion would never allow his/her daughter to stand naked on the street in front of thousands of people. You can see how these women started with "No hijab" and came to "No dress" in three weeks. We need to understand that all these kinds of protests are a part of propaganda and strategy.

Cause of the Protest

Here you should think about what should be the cause for protests which is of course-police brutality, torture, or medical negligence.

But NO! These protests are against the Islamic obligation of the Hijab. It is against Islamic law. It is against the Quran. The protestors do not want justice for Mahsa Amini. They don't want an investigation of the authorities involved. They want freedom from this law. They want to be free from Islam.

Remember the Black Lives Matter movement? For those who don't know, George Floyd, a 46 years old black man, was arrested for using a counterfeit 20\$ bill, and a biased American white policeman killed him by putting his leg on his neck for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. Then a nation-wide protest erupted in USA.

The protests took place against discrimination against black people and police brutality. There were no protests against the Secular Liberal system or the symbols of Christianity. There was no slogan raised against the American system or flag, or historical monuments. Their historical personalities were not targeted. Indeed, we didn't see that in the BLM protests, but

unfortunately, the liberal society in Iran used this situation negatively and made an environment against Islam. Slogans were raised: against Islam, and an ayah of the Quran was mocked, openly.

Rallies in favour of Hijab

As we have discussed above, the Hijab is a clear obligation in Islam, it is because of this reason that millions of Iranian women <u>took to the streets</u> across the country in Iran, protesting in favor of hijab and showing support for hijab by <u>wearing it</u>.

The protesters also announced their support for the police force and measures they have taken to restore calm across the country following days of violent riots. They gave flowers to police personnel along the path of the <u>demonstration</u>.

They strongly <u>condemn</u> the acts of sabotage committed by a handful of mercenaries serving foreign enemies, who desecrated mosques and burnt headscarves in the streets.

It is possible that most of you would be unfamiliar with this, but that is not your fault. None of the international mainstream media have given coverage nor discussed these protests because this news could break their fake agenda. The Israeli media have <u>labeled</u> this as "Government-backed pro-hijab rallies."

Involvemnet Of the West

If you follow BBC or CNN, you might be confused that the protest is happening in Iran or on the streets of New York. For the past few weeks, their prime news is the protest in Iran. In the USA, around 1000 civilians are killed annually by police brutality, but apparently, they are more worried about the police brutality in Iran.

As we all know, USA and Iran are in a conflict since the Iranian Revolution. In 2003, a former commander of NATO's forces, Wesley Clark, publicly <u>revealed</u> that the Bush administration was planning to attack seven Muslim countries. Iran was one of the seven countries on that list, and the rest have already been attacked by America. However, the USA has never gone into a full-fledged war with Iran but has always been trying for regime change in Iran.

opinion This incident was a perfect opportunity for America to capitalize on, and America did that. Now America will try its best for a regime change, just like it did in Pakistan a few months back. So, the American-backed regime can "liberate" Iranian society.

Online Propaganda of America

Mere days after the protests erupted, the *Washington Post* revealed that the Pentagon(headquarters of US Defence) had initiated a wide-ranging audit of all its online psyops efforts, after a number of bot and troll accounts operated by its Central Command (CENTCOM) division — which covers all US military actions in West Asia, North Africa and South and Central Asia — were exposed, and subsequently banned by major social networks and online spaces.

The accounts were busted in a joint investigation carried out by social media research firm Graphika, and the Stanford Internet Observatory, which evaluated "five years of pro-Western covert influence operations."

While the *Washington Post* suggested the government's offence stemmed from CENTCOM's manipulative activities which could compromise US "values" and its "moral high ground," it is abundantly clear that the real problem was CENTCOM being exposed.

A key strategy employed by US military psyops specialists is the creation of multiple sham media outlets publishing content in Farsi. Numerous online channels were maintained for these platforms, spanning Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and even Telegram.

Fake journalists and experts, with numerous "followers" on those platforms emerged, along with profile photos created via artificial intelligence. For example, Fahim News claimed to provide "accurate news and information" on events in Iran, prominently publishing posts declaring "the regime uses all of its efforts to censor and filter the internet," and encouraging readers to stick to online sources as a result.

Other CENTCOM psychological warfare (psywar) narratives have direct relevance to the protests that have engulfed Iran.

There was a particular focus among one group of bots and trolls on women's rights. Dozens of posts compared Iranian women's opportunities abroad with those in Iran – one meme on this theme contrasted photos of an astronaut with a victim of violent spousal abuse – while others promoted protests against the hijab.

If you want to read more about the online war of the US, you can read it here in detail. This is not something new. It has always been a ploy of America. They build a narrative against a particular group or regime, and then they propagate this narrative with the help of their media. So, when a person turns on his television, he sees someone speaking against a particular group, and then he switches the channel, he sees the same narrative against that group. When he browses the internet, he sees articles against that group. When he opens his Instagram, he sees people putting stories against them. When he opens his Facebook, he sees people posting against them. When he opens his Twitter, he sees hashtags trending against them. Then he will finally believe what has been said against them to be the truth, and now he will start propagating the same narrative to others. This is called the Frequency illusion. It is a cognitive bias that occurs when "a concept or thing you just found out about suddenly seems to pop up everywhere."

Foreign spies

Two French spies <u>arrested</u> in Iran some four months ago have admitted to their attempts to provoke anti-government protests and riots with the ultimate goal of putting pressure on the country's Islamic establishment.

The two French nationals, Cécile Kohler, 37, and Jacques Paris, 69, travelled to Iran on April 28 as tourists but turned out to be spies for the Western agencies.

In a video aired on Iran's Arabic-language television news network al-Alam TV on the 6th October, Kohler admitted to being an agent of the French General Directorate for External Security (DGSE), which is equivalent to the British MI6 and the American CIA.

In the recording, Kohler said she and her partner were in Iran with the main purpose of laying the groundwork for mass unrest in an attempt to trigger "a revolution" in the Islamic Republic and overthrow the Iranian government. She explained that they brought in large sums of cash in order to fund riots and strikes, and purchase weaponry in an attempt to stir up chaos.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry <u>said</u> 92 people affiliated with the former US-backed Pahlavi regime had been identified and arrested in the riots. It added that nine nationals from Germany, Poland, Italy, France, the Netherlands, and Sweden, among others, were arrested during the riots.

Double Standards of The World

The whole world stands with women who want to take their hijabs off, but women who are fighting for acceptance of their hijabs stand alone. The liberal world has always shown its double standards.

Indian American celebrity Priyanka Chopra showed her <u>support</u> for the women who are cutting their hair and protesting in Iran. She called those women "courageous" and encouraged them to fight for their "rights." India Today news anchor Geeta Mohan cuts her hair <u>live</u> on air, supporting the "anti-Hijab" movement in Iran. But where were these spokeswomen of "women's rights" when the Karnataka government <u>banned</u> the Hijab in educational institutions in the state? Where were they when Muslim girls wearing hijabs were <u>not allowed</u> to write their SSLC exams? Where were they when Muslim girls protested in <u>Kerela</u>, where a student was forced to drop out after she was not allowed to wear Hijab? Why didn't Priyanka Chopra find these women "courageous"? Why didn't she support the Muslim girls in her homeland fighting for their "rights"? Why didn't Geeta Mohan wear a headscarf to stand with the young girls who were denied education because of their dress? This shows that by hiding behind the veil of "women's rights," they are only promoting their liberal ideologies.

The UN <u>called</u> the Hijab law "discriminatory" and said these laws remain a "concern." It has also called for the repeal of such laws. <u>Amnesty International</u> called the veiling laws "abusive." But both of these "Human rights organizations" are still silent on Europe's court judgment that EU companies can ban women from wearing a headscarf. Both are still silent on Switzerland's <u>proposal</u> of a \$1000 fine for breaking the "burqa ban." Both are still silent on the situation of women in India, where they are <u>forced</u> to sacrifice their education because of the Hijab ban in institutions. Don't they find this "discriminatory"? The Hijab-ban laws don't "concern" them? Forcing women to take off their Hijab is not "abusive"?

As the streets of Iran flooded with protestors, the government restricted access to the Internet. The US immediately <u>relaxes</u> internet sanctions on Iran to expand internet access for the protestors. The <u>Treasury</u> Department updated its general license. The new license permits tech companies to offer more social media services, video meetings, and cloud-based services. This

move aimed to support the free flow of information to give a lift to protestors. You may think that America acted here as a saviour of freedom of speech, but that's not the case. Freedom of speech is only for the people who agree with their ideology. Where were they when India shut down the Internet 665 times in 10 years? Where were they when the Internet was shut down in Kashmir for 18 months? Where were they when nearly five lakh employees lost their jobs in Kashmir because of this Internet shutdown? Where were they when many lives were lost in Kashmir due to the slowing down of online communication in the medical sector? Why didn't they expand the Internet for the Kashmiris? Why couldn't their voices be heard, then?

As obvious to everyone, social media is alight with details of Mahsa's case and the protests in Iran. In addition to attacking Iran and narrating the Western-backed version of the story, you can see a candlelight vigil for Mahsa here and a "brotherly" message from English Musician Roger Waters to Mahsa there. You can also see and feel a campaign of media hype and calls to topple Iran's government based on claims of police killing the young lady. However, the same people on the World Wide Web are silent on the deliberate brutality, killing, violence, and violations of rights from occupied Palestine to Iraq to the land of the American dream, the United States itself.

opinion In the time that we are living in, anyone with intellect would know that the world is biased against Muslims. It's high time that all Muslims acknowledge this. When everyone is against a community, the least they can do to survive is unite among themselves. Muslims must think as one nation and must overcome linguistic, geographical, regional, and ethnic differences. The agents of colonial empires have seeded linguistic and regional nationalism among Muslims. Muslims must leave linguistic and regional nationalism behind and become one body. If any part of the body feels pain, the entire body should feel it and find a cure for it. The verses from the Quran are very clear on the subject of unity,

"And hold fast, all together, by the rope which Allah (stretches out for you) and be not divided among yourselves, and remember with gratitude Allah's favor on you; for you were enemies and He joined your hearts in love so that by His grace you became brethren, and you were on the brink of the pit of fire and He saved you from it. Thus, does Allah make his signs clear to you: that you may be guided" [Quran, 3:103].

Summarizing this article, we can say that this protest got more attention than it deserved. The protests wouldn't have spread across the country if the Western media hadn't hyped this so much. The West used this protest to promote its agenda and attack Islam. Just because they have the power of media, we are slaves to their thoughts and ideology. We can only know how they see things going on in the world. We don't get to hear the other side of the story. We all hear that Ukraine is innocent in the Russo-Ukrainian war. But have we ever tried to know the Russian side of the story? I'm not saying Russia is right, I'm saying that we don't even listen to the other side before coming to a conclusion.

The Western media is completely concealing anything that goes against their propaganda. Facebook and YouTube have always been <u>censoring</u> pro-Palestinian posts and videos. Accounts of Palestinian creators are being <u>disabled</u>. In 2020, Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube <u>canceled</u> a webinar featuring a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) under the pressure from Israeli and Jewish groups. BSR released a <u>report</u> last month which said that

Facebook and Instagram showed bias against Palestinians during a brutal Israeli assault on the Gaza Strip last May. Last week Meta <u>suspended</u> a Palestinian account, "Eye On Palestine," with over 3 million followers. Meanwhile, every social media platform allows violent speech against Russia, but Palestinian activists are censored for speaking out against Israeli oppression.

Their motive is to make Muslims embrace Western ideology and culture. Their problem is with the Islamic System. They don't want the laws to be taken from the scriptures. They know Islam is a threat to their ideology. They want the Muslims to be "modernized" and leave their scriptures and take moral values from their society. The United States of America and Europe is the ideal example of the society they want to give to Muslim women. The society that grants "freedom" to women. The freedom and liberty they are defending, that freedom is the reason 1 in 3 women is a victim of domestic violence, and 1 out of 2 is a victim of sexual harassment in Europe. That freedom is the reason in France 1 woman is killed by her partner or ex-partner every three days. That freedom is the reason every day, three women are murdered: in sexual or domestic violence in America. You can see where they are pushing our Muslim women in the shade of freedom.

Now here, in the end, I will again bring to your attention that Iran is not an Islamic State. There is a brutal regime, which is a Muslim government but not an Islamic government. If there were an Islamic rule, then the Islamic rulings would be fully implemented, and legislation would not be in the hands of the people sitting in their parliament. There is the structure of secular liberal order. If the Islamic rulings were implemented, then there would be no economic crisis or unemployment issue.

Although Iran has a secular liberal system, but due to regional or geopolitical reasons, the west has imposed several sanctions on Iran. That is why there is an inflation rise in Iran, and people are showing resentment against the government. They came to power in the name of Islam, but they did not implement the Shariah of Islam, which is why they took the freedom of people, that is already provided by Islam. That is why the people of Iran were already resented by the government. In this situation, liberals and feminists sidelined the main issues of Iran and hijacked the protests, and started running according to their ideology. Hence you can see women dancing on the streets and cutting their hair.

There are many more things to be said, but I don't want to extend this article any further. In the end, I will leave you with some questions. Do you think the people in Europe and America who are showing their support and solidarity from their drawing rooms care about the death of a Muslim girl? If a Muslim woman's life really matters to them, then why do they remain silent when innocent Aafia Siddiqui is sentenced to 86 years in prison? Then why do they remain silent when 15-year-old Zainab al-Khazali is killed by US gunfire? Then why do they remain silent when 14-year-old Abeer Qassim is raped and murdered along with her family by a US soldier? Then why do they remain silent when Palestinian women are abused by Israeli forces? Then why do they remain silent when the West bombs Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Africa and rapes their women? Then why do they remain silent when the female prisoners are tortured and raped in Abu Ghraib? Why don't they raise their voices, then? Why don't they come to the streets, then?