

YASAMAN ARYANI,

IRAN

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



16-YEAR PRISON TERM FOR **PROTESTING** FORCED VEILING



YASAMAN ARYANI

IRAN

A white flower generously shared, a scarf gently removed: two simple gestures that Yasaman Aryani dared to make on a public train in Iran. It was International Women's Day 2019 and Yasaman, an actor who loves mountain climbing, stood up to Iran's forced veiling laws in a brave act of defiance.

With her mother, she walked through a women-only train carriage, hair boldly uncovered as she handed out white flowers. She spoke of her hopes for a future when all women would have the freedom to choose what to wear so that one day they could walk together "me without the hijab and you with the hijab". These moments, captured on video, went viral in March 2019.

On 10 April, Iran's authorities arrested Yasaman, holding her alone in a cell for days while interrogators questioned her. They told her to "confess" that foreign elements were behind her activism and to "repent" her actions. If she didn't, they said they would arrest her friends and family. On 31 July, Yasaman learned to her shock that she has been sentenced to 16 years in prison. She must serve at least 10 years.

Yasaman's cruel punishment is part of a wider crackdown on women campaigning against forced veiling laws in Iran. Since 2018, dozens of women, including Yasaman's mother, Monireh Arabshahi, have been arrested. The Iranian authorities must not be allowed to rob Yasaman of the best years of her life – simply because she believes women should have the right to choose what they wear.

Tell Iran to free Yasaman now.



WRITE TO THE IRANIAN AUTHORITIES TODAY

Tell them to release Yasaman Aryani immediately and unconditionally.

Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi

*c/o Permanent Mission of Iran
to the UN*

*Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva, Switzerland*

Twitter: @khamenei_ir

Instagram: www.instagram.com/khamenei_ir

Salutation: Dear Mr Raisi

SHOW YASAMAN YOU'RE WITH HER

Take a photo or video of yourself taking action like Yasaman did: handing out flowers, or experiencing the sun, wind or rain on your hair. Post these on your social media accounts, tagging them #FreeYasaman with a message to @yasamanaryani95 and Iran's leader @khamenei_ir. You can also send your photos/videos to Iran_team@amnesty.org.

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**