



IRAN

## YASAMAN ARYANI

### Sixteen-year sentence for women's rights action

On 8 March – International Women's Day – 2019 Yasaman Aryani walked through a women-only train carriage in Tehran with her hair uncovered and handed out white flowers. She spoke of her hopes for a future where 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'.

A video of her act of defiance went viral, and on 10 April she was arrested. She was held alone in a cell for days while interrogators questioned her. They told her to 'confess' that foreign elements were behind her activism and 'repent' her actions. Otherwise, they said, her friends and family would be arrested. On 31 July, Yasaman learned she had been sentenced to 16 years in prison – of which she must serve at least 10 years.

This cruel punishment is part of a wider crackdown on women who campaign against Iran's forced veiling laws. Since 2018, dozens of women, including Yasaman's mother, Monireh Arabshahi, have been arrested.

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



### EVERY MESSAGE COUNTS

Together we can stand with Yasaman

'[I hope to walk side by side in the street one day] me without the hijab and you with the hijab.'

Yasaman Aryani

### SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Take a photo or video of yourself handing out flowers or experiencing the sun, wind or rain on your hair and post them on your social media accounts. Tag them **#FreeYasaman** with a message on Twitter to **@yasamanaryani95** and Iran's leader **@khamenei\_ir**. You can also email your photos and videos to: **iran\_team@amnesty.org**.

**Language** English or Persian

**Suggested message** Our thoughts are with you and your family.

A Persian translation is available at **amnesty.org.uk/write**

### CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? No
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes
- Include my name and address? No

### SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Tell the Head of the Judiciary to release Yasaman Aryani immediately and unconditionally.

**Write to** Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi  
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN  
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28  
1209 Geneva  
Switzerland

**Salutation** Dear Mr Raisi

**In your letter ask him**

- To release Yasaman Aryani and Monireh Arabshahi immediately and unconditionally
- To unconditionally release all other women's rights defenders detained for peacefully protesting against forced veiling
- Stop criminalising the work of women human rights defenders so that they can carry out their important work, including campaigning against forced veiling.

# WRITE

# FOR

# RIGHTS

# 2019