



## Iranian community protest the Iranian regime and say it is the start of a revolution



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Pittsburgh's Iranian community turned out in force Saturday to protest the actions of the Iranian government and demand freedom for Iranian women.

More than 300 people showed up at the City-County Building, Downtown, in support of a movement against the Iranian government, waving signs and Iranian flags and chanting, "Say her name, Mahsa Amini," "Down with dictators," and, "Women, life, freedom."

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Over 300 people from the Iranian community to honor the death of Maher Amini and protest the Iranian regime for their oppression of women. [#IranProtests2022](#) [#Mahsa\\_Amini](#)

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A group of women also cut their hair and burned hijabs to illustrate their anger with what they called the oppression of women in Iran.

Unrest has wracked Iran recently, following the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year old woman who last month was detained by the morality police in Tehran for not wearing a hijab properly. She was beaten and died in police custody Sept. 16.

Her death has sparked outrage within the country and led thousands of people to protest in Iran and across the world, demanding greater freedoms for women and an end to the oppression of the Iranian regime. At least 83 people have been killed during protests in Iran.

FayezeHaji Hassan, one of the organizers of the Pittsburgh event, said she chose to cut her hair in solidarity with the women of Iran who are currently fighting for their freedom.

“Hair is something so personal and is one of the most natural forms of expressions, and they [the Iranian government] tell us to hide it, they tell us what we can and cannot do with it,” Ms. Haji Hassan said. “Today I am using my body, the tool they use to oppress me, to protest their oppression.”

The protesters, a majority of whom were of Iranian descent, sang songs from their homeland, with many in tears over the death of Mahsa Amini and the oppression that led to it.

Marja, who recently moved to Pittsburgh from Iran and asked that her last name not be used because she still has family in Iran, said she had to take refuge in the United States because of the danger she said she faced in Iran as a dancer.

“The situation there is just awful, I couldn’t live anymore in that country,” Marja said. “I was a dancer back home and I loved my career, but being a woman in Iran, I didn’t have any freedom and as a woman we didn’t have a choice over our clothes, our body, we had nothing.”

The protesters also asked for support from the U.S., urging the country not to deal with Iran at all until women there are given freedoms.

Ms. Haji Hassan said the strength of the Iranian community will not falter.

“Our event today is not just a protest, but the start of a revolution,” Ms. Haji Hassan said. “So we will keep fighting the oppressive Iranian government and keep being loud until our voices are heard.”

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