Iran arrests a top actress who expressed solidarity with a man executed over protests

December 17, 2022

By AP

NPR News

<https://www.npr.org/2022/12/17/1143842432/iran-arrests-actress-taraneh-alidoosti-protests>

Iranian authorities arrested one of the country's most famous actresses on charges of spreading falsehoods about [nationwide protests that grip the country](https://www.npr.org/2022/10/14/1129121335/ongoing-protests-in-iran-echo-a-century-old-revolution), state media said Saturday.

The report by IRNA said Taraneh Alidoosti, star of the Oscar-winning movie ["The Salesman,"](https://www.npr.org/2017/01/30/512012668/attention-must-be-paid-to-what-the-salesman-is-selling) was detained a week after she made a post on Instagram expressing solidarity with the first man recently executed for crimes committed during the nationwide protests.

According to the report published on the state media's official Telegram channel, Alidoosti was arrested because she did not provide ''any documents in line with her claims.″

''His name was Mohsen Shekari,'' she said in her post. ''Every international organization who is watching this bloodshed and not taking action, is a disgrace to humanity."

[Shekari was executed](https://www.npr.org/2022/12/09/1141820435/what-irans-execution-of-a-prisoner-linked-to-recent-protests-means-for-demonstra) Dec. 9 after being charged by an Iranian court with blocking a street in Tehran and attacking a member of the country's security forces with a machete.

Iran has been rocked by protests since the Sept. 16 [death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini](https://www.npr.org/2022/09/19/1123995106/iran-protest-mahsa-amini-death-morality-police), who died after being detained by the morality police. The protests have since morphred into one of the most serious challenges to Iran's theocracy installed by the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Hengameh Ghaziani and Katayoun Riahi, two other famous actresses in Iran, were arrested by authorities for expressing solidarity with protesters on social media. Both have been released.

At least 495 people have been killed in the demonstrations amid a harsh security crackdown, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that has been monitoring the protests since they began. Over 18,200 people have been detained by authorities.