

Facebook Post on the struggle in Iran and the Western attitude

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I've started unfriending and unfollowing dozens of journalists and political activists from different countries, out of deep exhaustion with the same recycled pattern: you look at Iran not through the eyes of the Iranian people, but through the eyes of your own government and Western perspective. As if nothing that happens in Iran becomes "real" until it first gets approved by Washington or Tel Aviv. As if Iranians don't have the right to be political subjects unless Western commentators grant them permission

Iranians are not going into the streets to be killed because of something Trump or the fascist Netanyahu says. Thinking that way is the polished, well-dressed version of racism: it reduces people who are paying with their blood to geopolitical puppets. Stop it. You cannot analyze a country of 90 million with two tweets and three clichés. There are movements, classes, cities, ethnic communities, social fault lines, and different historical experiences. Iran is not a headline. It is a living society.

And yes: We Iranians have the right to protest. We have the right to demand democracy. We have the right to demand freedom of association, political parties, and free speech. We have the right to demand justice. We have the right to demand life. We have the right to demand a foreign policy that does not turn us into hostages of permanent war with the world. None of this is a "foreign project." These are the most basic human rights—things you treat as normal in your own countries, but the moment it's Iran, you suddenly rebrand them as "ambiguity," "conspiracy," or a "power game."

And let's not infantilize reality either: among 90 million people, no one is a single bloc. Some support Islamic fascism, some support royalist fascism, some are republicans, some are leftists, and many don't fit any label at all—they just want to breathe. Society is diverse. Politics is a battlefield. But that diversity is not a reason to strip people of their right to protest or to delegitimize their blood.

My problem with you is this: you only “see” Iranians when it serves your own narrative. If they don’t fit your geopolitical anxieties, they get labeled “misled,” “tools,” or “suspicious.” That is the colonial gaze in a nutshell: non-Western people have to pass your moral tests before they are allowed to be seen.

No. Iranians do not need to “audition” for legitimacy in your eyes. Their legitimacy comes from the bullets that tore through their chests, from strikes that cost them prison, from women who fought for freedom, from workers who were flogged, and from families who had to collect their loved ones’ bodies from forensic centers.

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original on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/sia.lemel/posts/pfbid02LbGQ4w3qryrdgYrw7rUPgyp5RiWfrsxmHAZt34ctdzPmSajsdC54H2Tj6ieWdxcFI>

Siyâvash Shahabi Blog: [The Fire Next Time](#)