

Amnesty International is aggrieved and outraged that the life of yet another young person – this time 16-year-old Armita Garawand – was cut cruelly short in connection to Iran's abusive and degrading compulsory veiling laws which perpetuate widespread and systematic human rights violations against women and girls. On 28 October, Iranian state media reported that 16-year-old Armita Garawand died after being in a coma since 1 October. That day, she sustained critical injuries and fell unconscious in the Tehran metro following reports she was assaulted by an enforcer of Iran's degrading compulsory veiling laws.

For four weeks, Iranian authorities waged a concerted campaign of denial and distortion to conceal the truth about the circumstances leading to Armita Garawand's death. Then at her funeral they shamelessly detained mourners to silence any calls for truth and justice.

Amnesty International calls on the international community to demand that Iran's authorities allow the UN Fact-Finding Mission and other independent monitors to enter the country to investigate the circumstances leading Armita Garawand's hospitalization in a coma and death.

States must also pursue international legal pathways to hold Iranian officials accountable for ordering, planning & committing widespread and systematic human rights violations against women and girls through compulsory veiling. Those found responsible for Armita Garawand's critical injuries must face justice.

Iran's authorities must immediately release anyone arbitrarily arrested for peacefully attending Armita Garawand's funeral, including human rights lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, who was arbitrarily detained on 29 October in Tehran.