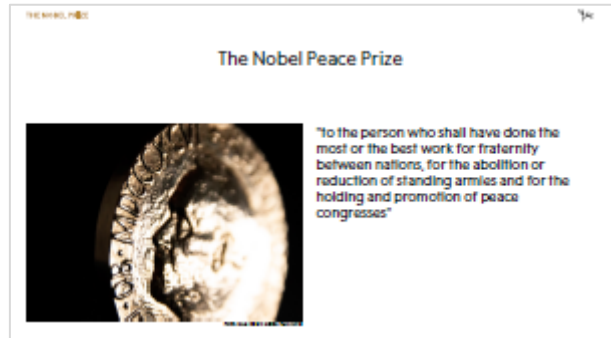


## Speaker's manuscript – Peace prize 2023 Narges Mohammadi

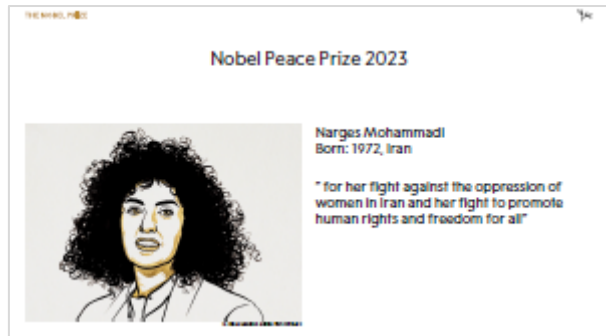
### The Nobel Peace Prize

- The Nobel Peace Prize is one of the five prizes established by Alfred Nobel and is awarded every year on 10 December.
- Before he died on 10 December 1896, Alfred Nobel wrote in his last will that most of his fortune was to be used for the awarding of five prizes to “those who, during the preceding year, have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind.” One of the prizes was to go to “the person who has done the most or best to advance fellowship among nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies, and the establishment and promotion of peace congresses.”
- This clause has been interpreted in many ways, but the prize is awarded either to people or to organisations that have done something to promote peace.



### Nobel Peace Prize 2023

- The Nobel Peace Prize 2023 was awarded to Narges Mohammadi “for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all”.
- She has paid a high price for her courageous struggle. Altogether, the authorities in Iran have arrested her 13 times. She has been sentenced five times to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.
- At the time of the announcement of the 2023 peace prize, Narges Mohammadi was still in prison.



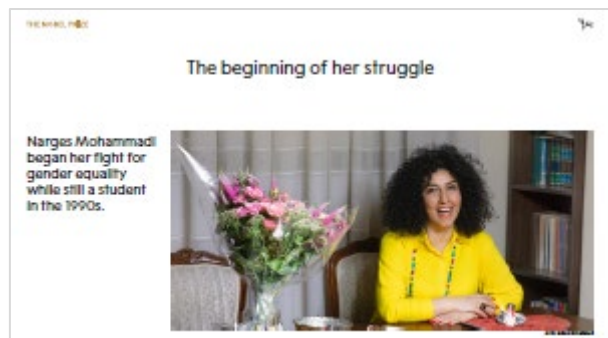
## Protests against the oppression of women

- “Zan – Zendegi – Azadi” (Woman – Life – Freedom). With those words, the Norwegian Nobel Committee – which selects the Nobel Peace Prize laureates – opened the announcement of the 2023 Peace Prize. These words became a motto for the hundreds of thousands of Iranians who demonstrated in the autumn of 2022 against the oppression that women are subjected to by the Iranian regime. These demonstrations were the largest since the regime came to power in 1979.
- The protests began when a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, was killed in custody by the so-called morality police, who ensure that the country’s strict religious rules are followed by the population.
- From prison, Narges Mohammadi has expressed her support for the demonstrators. She has organised solidarity actions among her fellow prisoners, prompting the prison authorities to impose even stricter conditions on her.
- The Iranian regime has responded to the protests with great brutality. More than 500 protesters have been killed, thousands have been injured and many have been blinded by police rubber bullets. At least 20,000 have been arrested.
- In many places in the world, there have been demonstrations in support of the protests in Iran, for example in London, where the big photo is from.



## The beginning of her struggle

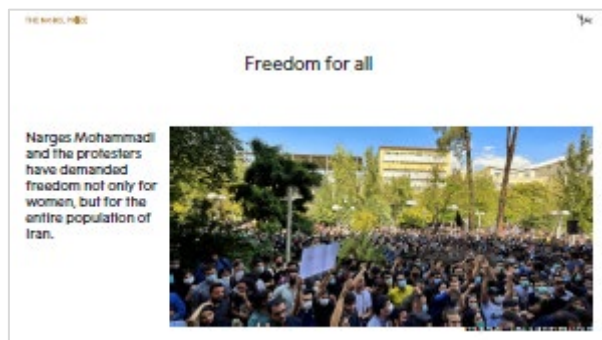
- Narges Mohammadi began her work for gender equality while still a physics student in the 1990s. After concluding her studies, she worked as an engineer and as a columnist in various reform-minded newspapers.
- In 2003, she became involved in the Defenders of Human Rights Center in Iran’s capital Tehran. The group was founded by another Iranian woman, lawyer Shirin Ebadi, who was also awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.



## Freedom for all

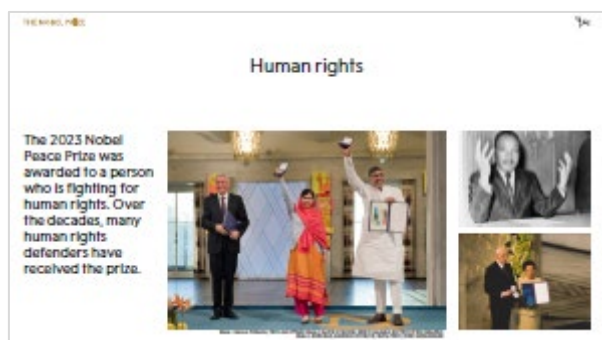
- The Norwegian Nobel Committee attaches great importance to the famous slogan “Woman – Life – Freedom”. The Committee emphasises that this slogan is consistent with Narges Mohammadi’s struggle and commitment:
  - Woman: She is fighting for women’s rights against systematic discrimination.
  - Life: She supports women’s struggle for the right to live full lives.
  - Freedom: She is fighting for women’s freedom to express themselves and be themselves, and against the rules that women must hide their bodies.

At the same time, the Norwegian Nobel Committee emphasises that the demands for freedom expressed by Narges Mohammadi and the demonstrators apply not only to women but to the entire population. Protests have taken place in many places in Iran and the rest of the world.



## Human rights

- The Nobel Peace Prize 2023 is a strong recognition of the women’s movement in Iran.
- It is also one of a long line of prizes that have rewarded the fight for human rights. Other examples of human rights defenders who have received the Nobel Peace Prize are Martin Luther King Jr, Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai and Shirin Ebadi.
- 2023 marks the 20th anniversary of Shirin Ebadi’s Nobel Peace Prize. 2023 also marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the UN General Assembly.



**“The more of us they lock up, the stronger we become.”**

Narges Mohammadi fights for women's rights, for human rights and for freedom in Iran. On the first anniversary of Mahsa Amini's death, a letter from Mohammadi was smuggled out of prison. Her message was: “The more of us they lock up, the stronger we become.”

