



*Monument Zero* emerged from International Women's Day on 8 March 1979 in Iran. The archival materials that form the starting point depict six days of protests, sit-ins, and conferences that began on this day in Tehran. These historical objects have been preserved by the mercy of their creators, who were present during the 1979 protests, and are scattered across personal and public holdings worldwide.

Throughout the past 46 years, the history of the International Women's Day protests has faced several deliberate attempts at erasure. Therefore, by bringing together the scarce materials that depict this forgotten history, *Monument Zero* counters historical erasure and explores the preservation of political struggles through collective cultural and artistic practice.

*Monument Zero* is part of a wider interdisciplinary project initiated by artist Katayoon Barzegar. The book is edited by Niloufar Nematollahi and Jose Rosales and it includes previously untranslated historical materials presented here in English for the first time, alongside contributions from writers Shirin Karimi and Elaheh Soroushnia, and visual essays by artist Meshkat Talebi.

Niloufar Nematollahi (1998, Isfahan) is a writer, and curator currently based in the Netherlands. Nematollahi's research focuses on historical and contemporary figurations of labour in Iran with an emphasis on the oil industry. By attending to the processes that produce these figurations of labour — state-building, subsumption, and racialisation — Nematollahi offers counter-histories of workers' struggles for self-representation and political participation.

Katayoon Barzegar (b. 1990, Tehran) is a visual artist and researcher based in the Netherlands. Working across sculpture, installation, video, and text, she investigates how structures of power materialize in bodies and spaces. Her practice combines theoretical research with material experimentation, exploring how the formal traces of authority embedded in dominant narratives continue to shape daily life.