RISKY FASHION IN IRAN

This vendor at the bazaar in Kermanshah sports a unique hairstyle. Spiked hair has reportedly been banned in Iran because it implies devil-worship.



Jagged haircuts, like the one seen on this mechanic in Kermanshah, are fashionable among teens and young adults in Iran. The religious authorities deem them to be western and un-Islamic.



This hairdo violates the Islamic system's regulations. A giant fresco showing Ayatollah Komeini can be seen in the background.

Young Iranian men, like this man in Esfahan, have begun to pluck their eyebrows to the chagrin of the Islamic authorities.



Officials have banned styles like this, describing them as "devil-worshipping" and "homosexual."



Violations could lead to arrests. This is already the case for the women who do not follow the rules. The Religious Police arrest and fine them. Either that or accept a bribe for looking the other way.





Applying excessive hair gel was also on the 2010 list of illegal practices. Nobody respects this law.



The men from Baluchistan area have adopted the cowboy hat as a fashion accessory. The religious authorities are displeased.



Some men argue that these haircuts were worn by the Kings of ancient Persia and thus should be allowed to honor the country's history.



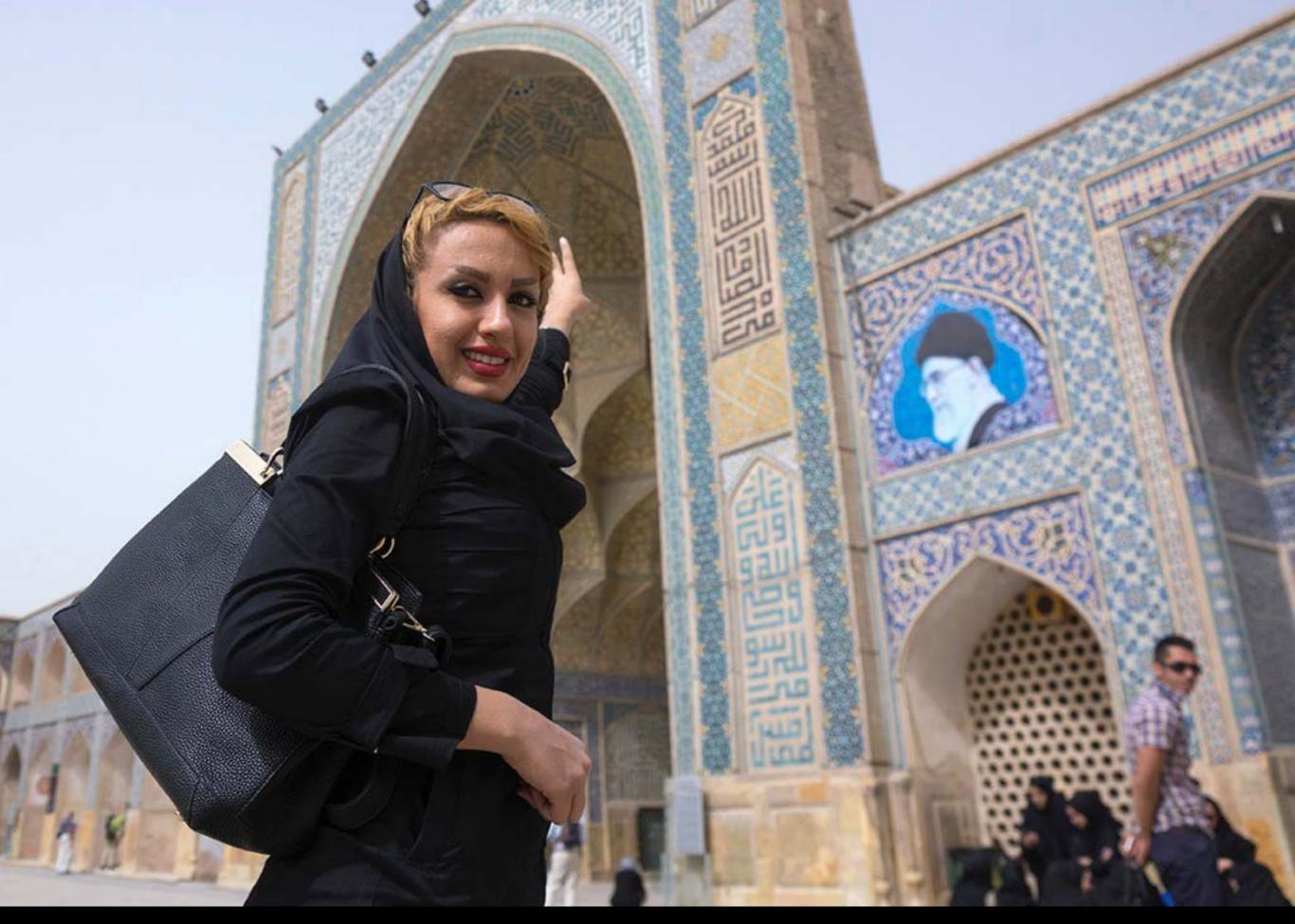
Sun-beds are very popular among young adults. The tan gives the appearance of health yet this too is unacceptable. The authorities say it "poses a cultural problem" and deem it to be "a blind imitation of the vulgar culture of the west".



For the women, being fashionable is complicated since the dress code is so strict.



Islamic Sharia law was implemented during the 1979 revolution. Since then, women have been forced to cover their hair and wear long loose-fitting clothes to "maintain their modesty". Black clothing is recommended, but the younger generation likes to break the rules.



To express their style, women color their hair, pushing the limits of the law.



They also wear wigs like the RnB singers on the music TV stations.



Accessories have become a big way to exhibit some style. The iPhone is in vogue.

In the urban areas, women wear brightly colored scarves pushed back to expose plenty of hair. Sunglasses are also a way to express individuality.



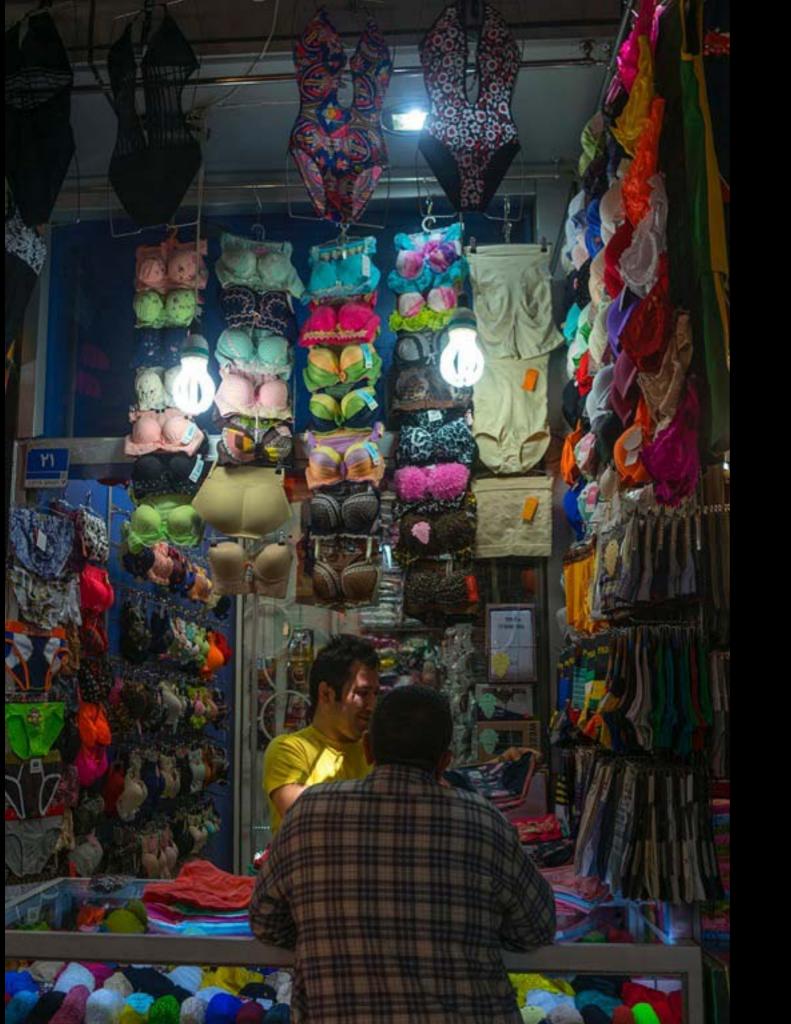
Recently, more than 70,000 policemen were dispatched to crack down "western cultural invasion".



Elnaz is a young iranian artist. She tries to be different with both her art and her clothes (notice the shoes and tight jeans). Every one of her pieces must go through a censor committee before being displayed.



When posing for photographs, women display western hand gestures. They love to exchange their Instagram handles as this app is not totally censored by the government.



An undergarment shop in the Tehran bazaar. The fluffy pink bra is rather provocative. The loose-fitting headscarves, tight overcoats and shortened trousers that expose skin are banned.



Mannequin heads are cut in half. The religious authorities wanted to cut the whole head, the shoppers and vendors protested. Quite a compromise!

eric lafforgue lafforgue@mac.com