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Contact: Anasa D. Sinegal

Phone: (909) 957-8496

url/email: [myspace.com/pleasefreeesha](https://myspace.com/pleasefreeesha) /[anasa.sinegal.48@csun.edu](mailto:anasa.sinegal.48@csun.edu)

**NO THANKSGIVING FOR ESHA MOMENI**

CSUN Grad Student Not Free to Leave Iran  
and Celebrate Thanksgiving in Los Angeles -- Despite Reports

Northridge, Calif. – Contrary to reports published last week, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) mass communication graduate student and Los Angeles native Esha Momeni will not be able to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday with friends since she remains in Iran and is not free to leave the country.

“We’re all spending time with friends and family this week and we were hoping we’d be giving thanks for having Esha back in L.A.,” said CSUN mass communication graduate student Vanessa Mora. “We wanted to see her celebrate this holiday she can’t celebrate anywhere else but now we don’t know what will happen next.”

The 28-year-old graphic designer and photographer was released from a political prison in Tehran on Nov. 10 after being held for 25 days, but friends say Iranian authorities have not returned her passport and are not allowing her to exit the nation freely, despite reports coming out of Iran.

Undercover police arrested Momeni in Iran on Oct. 15 for allegedly passing a vehicle illegally, according to a statement from Change for Equality, a women’s rights organization. Momeni was in the country visiting family and conducting research for her master's degree thesis on the Iranian women’s movement.

Momeni's classmates and friends held a candlelight vigil Nov. 12 to call for her safe return to Los Angeles to complete her degree. Now they say her uncertain legal status is consuming their thoughts as the holiday season draws near.

"I'm disappointed that she's not going to have peace of mind on a holiday where those of us here will be able to give thanks, stop to take a breath and give gratitude for our families, our freedom and everything we have," said Momeni's CSUN classmate Dodd Harrington.

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*For more information and background material, visit*  
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