

At a Glance

Weekly report on Human Rights Violation in Iran 23 October 2016

International Condemnation of Violation of Human Rights in Iran

October 2016 report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran



The Special Rapporteur submits the present report, his sixth to the General Assembly, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 31/19. In his report the Special Rapporteur primarily presents information gathered from government sources and relayed by alleged victims of rights violations as well as civil society actors located inside and outside the country.

[Read the full report.](#)

<http://shaheedoniran.org/english/dr-shaheeds-work/october-2016-report-special-rapporteur-unga2016/>

The Sentencing of Siamak and Baquer Namazi

Press Statement

Mark C. Toner

Deputy Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC

October 18, 2016

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/10/263245.htm>



We are deeply concerned about reports that U.S. citizens Siamak Namazi and Baquer Namazi have each been sentenced to 10 years in prison. Siamak Namazi has been unjustly detained in Iran for over a year. His father, Baquer Namazi, whom the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has called a respected former employee, was also reportedly unjustly detained at the end of February 2016. We remain especially concerned by reports of his declining health and well-being.

We join recent calls by international organizations and UN human rights experts for the immediate release of all U.S. citizens unjustly detained in Iran, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi, so that they can return to their families.

We also respectfully underscore the importance of Iran cooperating with the United States to determine the whereabouts of Mr. Robert Levinson, who went missing on Iran's Kish Island

in March 2007. As President Obama stated last January, we will not rest until the Levinson family is whole again.

UK urged to take Iran to international court over woman's jail sentence

<https://amp.theguardian.com/world/2016/oct/13/uk-iran-international-court-of-justice-nazanin-zaghari-ratcliffe>

Human rights organisation calls for action after UN group rules Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe's detention is arbitrary



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe and her daughter, Gabriella, who is being looked after by her Iranian grandparents. Photograph: Handout/Reuters

[Saeed Kamali Dehghan](#)

Thursday 13 October 2016 15.00 BST

The human rights organisation Redress has called on the UK government to consider taking Iran to the international court of justice (ICJ) over [the sentencing of a British-Iranian woman](#) to five years in jail.

It comes after a UN-mandated body of human rights experts found that the ongoing detention of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a project manager with the Thomson Reuters Foundation, was arbitrary and that she was denied a fair trial and discriminated against as a dual national.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe was [given a five-year sentence last month](#) on charges that remain secret. She was arrested in April by members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guards at Tehran's international airport, where she and her then 22-month-old daughter, Gabriella, had been about to return to the UK after a family visit.

The UN working group on arbitrary detention (WGAD), in response to a claim by Redress, ruled that the Briton's imprisonment and her separation from her daughter, who is in the care of her Iranian grandparents, was in breach of the international covenant on civil and political rights.

Redress said on Thursday that Britain should bring a case against Iran before the ICJ if it continued to refuse consular access to dual nationals held in jail. [Iran](#) does not recognise dual citizenship and treats prisoners such as Zaghari-Ratcliffe solely as Iranian.

Carla Ferstman, director of Redress, said the WGAD had sent a powerful and unequivocal message to Iran. "We will be even more delighted when this young mother and her two-year-old child are back in Britain," Ferstman added.

Redress and Zaghari-Ratcliffe's husband, Richard, who is spearheading a campaign for his wife's release, have been critical of the UK government's muted response to her detention.

"The strong stand taken by the WGAD is in marked contrast with that of the British government, which has consistently refused to publicly call on Iran to release Nazanin and allow her and Gabriella home," Ferstman said.

The UN body has said that it “considers that there is an emerging pattern involving the arbitrary deprivation of liberty of dual nationals in Iran”. Zaghari-Ratcliffe’s dilemma is one of a string of cases involving dual nationals held behind bars in Iran.

The Iranian motive behind such arrests is still unclear but Homa Hoodfar, a Canadian-Iranian professor who was released at the end of last month, has shed some light on the matter. Hoodfar [told the Guardian](#) there were “almost two different states functioning at the same time” in Iran and that she was a pawn in a political struggle in the country.

Hoodfar told BBC’s Persian service later that the unelected faction of the Iranian state, notably the Revolutionary Guards, responsible for arresting dual nationals, was seeking to undermine and pressure the elected faction of the state, which is the government of the moderate president, Hassan Rouhani. The Guards oppose many of Rouhani’s domestic and foreign policies.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe is being held in Tehran’s notorious Evin prison. The Revolutionary Guards have accused Zaghari-Ratcliffe of fomenting a “soft overthrow” of the Islamic Republic and being the ringleader of a network of “hostile institutions” associated with foreign intelligence agencies, allegations that her husband has said are untrue.

Richard Ratcliffe, speaking to the Guardian on Thursday, said his wife had called him last Tuesday. She “expressed frustration with the waiting – she asked what I and the government were doing. She knew about Homa’s release, and said she couldn’t understand why not her also, when the UK has an embassy and Canada does not.”

He added: “I think the government can make it publicly clear that Nazanin’s and Gabriella’s treatment is unacceptable – you cannot sentence someone for five years on a secret crime, or clearly signal that you are holding a mother and effectively her young daughter as a political bargaining chip. It is a nonsense. And they should clearly say this is abuse.

“Also they could clarify that in their view those initial allegations – of her being involved in the overthrow of the regime, of her being a British spy – are not true. I’ve never seen a refutation, even in diplomatic terms. And they should be signalling that if Iran doesn’t solve this – doesn’t stop taking British dual nationals as bargaining chips – there will be consequences. That is why we talk about taking Iran to the international court of justice. Otherwise this could happen to anyone.”

Kamran Foroughi, whose father [Kamal](#), a British-Iranian businessman, has also been kept in jail in Iran since 2011, said on Thursday that he was suffering cataracts and needed urgent operations on each eye. “So far in 2016 five US citizens and two Canadians have been released [from Iran], and none from the UK,” he said. “Given the US and Canada have no diplomatic relations and we have a fully functioning embassy, this is incredible.”

The 1988 massacre in Iran

Trial of the Revealer of audio tape concerning the 1988 Massacre in Iran

Saturday, 22 October 2016 15:59

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/human-rights/21331-trial-of-the-revealer-of-audio-tape-concerning-the-1988-massacre-in-iran>



NCRI - Iran: Trial of Ahmad Montazeri without a lawyer in the Special Clerical Court on charges of “acting against national security”

According to reports, Ahmad Montazeri, son of Ayatollah Hossein-Ali Montazeri (former Deputy Supreme Leader and Khomeini’s nominated successor at the time) was tried in the Special Court for Clerics (SCC) in Qom on Wednesday, October 19, for publishing an audio file of his father’s meeting with the “Death Commission” responsible for the massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in 1988 in Iran.

Montazeri’s family announced the news on their Telegram channel, adding that the court session was held “behind closed doors without the presence of a defense lawyer and jury.” The statement said that Ahmad Montazeri was accused of “acting against national security” and the charges were read out by Ansari-Zadeh, representative of the prosecutor.

Ahmad Montazeri has denied the charges but “on the request of the relevant authorities, it has been decided not to publish the content of the meeting until the court’s verdict is announced,” Ayatollah Montazeri’s family added.

The court started at 9:00 a.m. and ended at around 13:00 in the afternoon. The Special Court for Clerics does not exist in the constitution of the Islamic Republic but the Court has been handling the cases of allegation and offenses committed by this stratum for years. The Court is accountable only to the Supreme Leader.

On August 2016, Ayatollah Montazeri’s official website published an audio file of this late Ayatollah’s meeting with the member of “Death Commission” including Hossein-Ali Nayeri, Morteza Eshraghi, Ebrahim Raeisi and Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi (current Justice Minister in Rouhani’s administration) who oversaw and approved all the executions during the 1988 massacre of political prisoners after a fatwa by the regime’s then Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khomeini. In this meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri describes the mass execution of political prisoners as “the greatest crime committed during the reign of the Islamic Republic” and tells them that they would be remembered in the future as criminals.

The release of the audio file was met with widespread reactions in Iran and outside the country. Most officials and figures of the Islamic Republic from both the hardline and the reformist factions, who took a stance on this issue, defended Khomeini’s decision for the mass execution of prisoners in 1988. However, figures like Ali Motahari demanded an apology from the perpetrators of the crime.

The People’s Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI or MEK), whose members and supporters make up most of those executed in that year, once again called for justice and the trial of the leaders of the Islamic Republic on charges of “crimes against humanity.”

In addition, 100 Iranian civil society figures, academics and human rights activists living abroad in a letter to the UN Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court urged these institutions to recognize the 1988 massacre of political prisoners as “crime against humanity.”

During the mass execution of political prisoners in the summer of 1988 in Iran, several

thousand members and supporters of the PMOI and some other opposition groups were executed by the Iranian regime within a few months.

Ahmad Montazeri was tried without a lawyer in the Special Clerical Court on charges of "acting against national security"

18 October 2016

<http://www.radiofarda.com/a/f14-iran-ahmad-montazeri-tried-in-charge-of-act-against-national-security/28063492.html>

Ahmad Montazeri, son of Hossein Ali Montazeri, was tried on Wednesday October 19 of 2016 in the Special Clerical Court in the city of Qom. The reason for his trial was the release of audio files of his father's meeting with the members of the group who ordered the execution of political prisoners.

Ayatollah Montazeri's family made this news public in their Telegram social media account. They added "that the meeting was behind closed doors and without the presence of defense counsel and jury". Ahmad Montazeri's charge is "acting against national security". The accusation was read by Ansaryzadh, the prosecutor. Ahmad Montazeri has denied the accusation, but "on the request of the relevant authorities, the contents of the meeting has not published until the release of the verdict."

It is reported that the court began at 9:00 AM and ended around 1:00 PM. The existence of the Clerical Court is not part of the Islamic Republic of Iran's constitution, but for many years, has been involved in matters that involves the clerics.

In Late August of 2016, Ayatollah Montazeri's official website released an audio file of a meeting between Ayatollah Montazeri and the committee members who ordered the executions of the political prisoners in summer of 1988. At that meeting, beside Ayatollah Montazeri who was the deputy leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Montazeri, Hosein Ali Neary, Morteza Ishraghi, Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi and Ebrahim Raisi were present. In the meeting, Ayatollah Montazeri names the massacre of the political prisoners in summer of 1988 as the biggest crime of the Islamic Republic of Iran and mentions that the future history will regard them as "criminals".

The release of this audio tape has had an array of different reactions in Iran and abroad. Most of the officials in Iran, regardless of their affiliations, have supported the decision and have praised Rouhollah Khomeini's decision in regard to the massacre.

A few political figures in Iran, such as Ali Motahari, had demanded an apology by the officials involved. The PMOI, whose members consisted most of who were executed, have demanded the trial of the Iranian officials on "crimes against humanity". One hundred activists, university scholars and social figures have written letters to the United Nations Human Rights Council and International criminal court to recognize this event as "Crimes Against Humanity". Thousands and thousands of the supporters of the Iranian regime's opposition were executed in summer of 1988.

Execution

A Prisoner Hanged in Public in Neyshaboor / Graphic Footage

Posted on: 17th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/prisoner-hanged-public-neyshaboor-graphic-footage>



HRANA News Agency – A man who was alleged in murder of a little girl, 10 days ago was arrested and executed in Neyshaboor. It is not clear how his case could have been treated in such a short time. Apart from the execution itself, what was highlighted was the expression of unprecedented shameful joy by the present people.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), Mahdi

N., 37, who had been charged with murder of Kiana Sadat Hossaini, 7, was hanged in public in Neyshaboor.

This execution was performed in Enghelab junction and a number of residents of Neyshaboor were present.

The process of this case is under serious questions and concerns and the rights of defendants, in such important case like murder, which sometime takes years to be processed, could have been neglected.

56 Prisoners Executed During 17 Days

Posted on: 17th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/56-prisoners-executed-17-days>



HRANA News Agency – In a concerning statistical jump, in less than three weeks, more than 56 prisoners with different charges were hanged in 10 different cities of Iran.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), in 17 days, 56 executions were registered in Shahrood, Gorgan, Uremia, Minab, Tabriz, Mashhad, Taybad, Nayriz, and Shiraz.

According to the statistic centre of HRANA, on September 13th, 17 prisoners in Vakil Abad prison with drug related charges, three prisoners in Adel Abad in Shiraz, two of whom were charged with robbery and one other was charged with rape, were hanged.

The new month started with the execution of one prisoner in public. A prisoner who was charged with rape, murder, abduction and robbery was hanged in Nayriz stadium, in Fras province.

On Saturday, September 24, 4 drug offenders were hanged in Tabriz central prison.

In Taybad and Uremia on September 25 and 26, two prisoners charged with drug related charges were executed.

On September 27, HRANA reported that on second quarter of September, two prisoners in Shahrood and one in Gorgan were executed.

On September 28, the execution of 7 prisoners with drug related charges was registered.

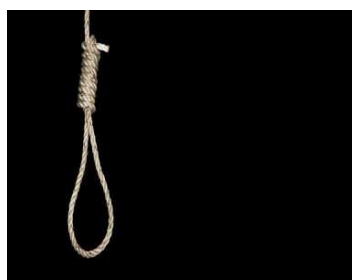
In continuation of this trend, on September 29, 11 prisoners were executed with the charges of drug smuggling, homicide, and armed robbery.

Finally, 8 prisoners, including one woman were hanged in Uremia prison for drug related charges.

A Prisoner Hanged in Urmia

Posted on: 17th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/prisoner-hanged-urmia>



HRANA News Agency – A prisoner was hanged on charge of murder in central prison of Urmia.

According to the report of the Human Rights Activists News Agency in Iran (HRANA), this execution was carried out on September 26.

HRANA has identified this prisoners as “Amir Behrouz”. He was transferred to solitary confinement a day before.

Iran: 14 prisoners executed on drug charges at Ghezel Hesar prison

<http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=20316617&srcday=0&srcmonth=0&srcyear=0&mover=>



October 18, 2016: According to close sources, Iranian authorities hanged 14 prisoners at Ghezel Hesar Prison in the morning.

The prisoners were reportedly transferred to solitary confinement on October 17 in preparation for their executions.

According to close sources, some of the prisoners were transferred to Ghezel Hesar from Karaj and Fashavieh (Tehran) prisons.

The names of the prisoners who were executed have been reported as the following: From unit 2, hall 2 and 3 of Ghezel Hesar Prison: Abbas Karami (charged with 40 kilograms of narcotics, was imprisoned for five years before he was executed), Hamid Saber, Hamid Babaie (was imprisoned for nine years before he was executed), Hamid (Amir) Nazari (charged with 25 kilograms of heroin, was imprisoned for eight years before he was executed), Peyman Sabalani (was imprisoned for nine years before he was executed), Ganjali Chekezadeh (charged with two kilograms of crack, was imprisoned for ten years before he was executed), Reza Sabzi, and Khodamali Pirzadeh.

From Fashavieh Prison (Tehran): Khashiar Ahani and Mehdi Geravand. Karaj Central Prison: Saeed Zakaria and Morteza Amini, both from hall 2, Shahin Akbari, from hall 5, and Ali Akbari Reigi, from hall 4.

These executions have not been announced or confirmed by Iranian official sources, including the Judiciary or the media. The 14 prisoners were executed at a time when the death penalty for drug-related charges is under review in the Iranian Judiciary.

Iran: prisoner executed on drug related charges

<http://www.handsoffcain.info/news/index.php?iddocumento=20316640>



October 18, 2016: A prisoner sentenced to death on drug related charges was reportedly executed in the morning at Miandoab Prison (West Azerbaijan province, northwestern Iran).

According to close sources, the prisoner has been identified as 39-year-old Fardin Soleimanpanah. Iranian authorities reportedly arrested Mr Soleimanpanah on May 5, 2015 for allegedly trafficking and possessing 600 grams of crystal meth and 150 grams of crack.

He was sentenced to death by branch 1 of Miandoab's Revolutionary Court and the sentence was confirmed on August 2, 2016.

Close sources say that Mr Soleimanpanah and another prisoner were transferred from their prison cells to solitary confinement on October 17 in preparation for their executions. The other prisoner's death sentence was postponed for unknown reasons. Iranian official sources, including the Judiciary and the media, have not announced Mr Soliemanpanah's execution.

2 Prisoners Executed in Khoram Abad

Posted on: 21st October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/2-prisoners-executed-khoram-abad>

HRANA News Agency – Two drug offenders were hanged in Parsilon prison of Khoram Abad.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), the two prisoners were executed on Tuesday 4th of October.

HRANA has identified one of them as “Shiroudeh Tahmasebi” with the charge of keeping 5 kg crack.

Prisoners of Conscience

URGENT ACTION

Mohammad Ali Taheri's whereabouts unknown

Further information on UA: 212/14 Index: MDE 13/5018/2016 Iran Date: 20 October 2016

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/5018/2016/en/>



Iranian spiritual teacher Mohammad Ali Taheri, who started a hunger strike on 28 September, has been held incommunicado since 16 October. The authorities are refusing to provide his family with any information about his fate and whereabouts.

Iranian spiritual teacher Mohammad Ali Taheri, who has been languishing in solitary confinement in Section 2A of Tehran's Evin Prison for over five years, has been deprived of all contact with his family since 16 October. His family are in great distress over his fate and whereabouts, particularly because his health has deteriorated since he started a hunger strike on 28 September. They have gone to various prison and judicial officials to enquire about his conditions and whereabouts but the authorities have refused to provide them with any information. Judicial officials appear to have informally told his lawyers that Mohammad Ali Taheri lost consciousness on the night of 18 October and was transferred to a Tehran hospital where the Revolutionary Guards frequently take people who are in their custody and hospitalize them under pseudonyms. This information, however, has not been confirmed to his family.

His family have said that his main interrogator and a masked man entered his cell on the fifth day of his hunger strike, took him to an interrogation room, and put him under pressure to give video-recorded "confessions". They have said that he was beaten when he resisted. Mohammad Ali Taheri, who has been in detention since May 2011, started his latest hunger strike in protest at the authorities' refusal to release him even though he had completed serving his five-year prison sentence, which had been imposed on him for "insulting Islamic sanctities" for establishing a spiritual doctrine and group called Erfan-e Halgheh. In June 2016, he was acquitted of a second charge of "spreading corruption on earth", for which he had been previously sentenced to death in August 2015.

Please write immediately in English, Persian, Arabic, French and Spanish or your own language:

- ☐ Calling on the Iranian authorities to immediately disclose Mohammad Ali Taheri's fate and whereabouts, and allow him to have regular visits and phone calls with his family;
- ☐ Urging them to release him immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, held solely for the peaceful exercise of his rights to freedom of belief, expression and association;
- ☐ Calling on them to ensure he has access to a qualified health professional who can provide health care in compliance with medical ethics, including the principles of confidentiality, autonomy and informed consent;
- ☐ Calling on them to ensure that he is protected from any punishment for his hunger strike and to order an independent and impartial investigation into his allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, including his prolonged solitary confinement, which violates the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, and bring those responsible to justice in a fair trial without recourse to the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 1 DECEMBER 2016 TO: Office of the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Sayed 'Ali Khamenei Salutation: Your Excellency

Head of the Judiciary Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to: President Hassan Rouhani

Please send your appeals to the care of diplomatic representatives accredited to your country, listed below. If there is no Iranian embassy in your country, please mail the letter to the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, 622 Third Avenue,

34th Floor, New York, NY 10017, United States. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below: Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fifth update of UA 212/14. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE13/3433/2016/en/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mohammad Ali Taheri introduced the spiritual doctrine of Erfan-e Halgheh after 13 years of receiving what he claims were “spiritual inspirations” that empowered him to connect with a larger “Cosmic Consciousness”. He lawfully opened a cultural and educational institute, also called Erfan-e Halgheh, in Tehran in 2006 to develop and disseminate his newly found spiritual beliefs, and practice them with his followers in “healing sessions” apparently focused on alternative non-medicinal treatments. The three offices of the institute in Tehran were shut down in August 2010.

Mohammad Ali Taheri was first arrested in April 2010 and was released after two months. He was re-arrested in May 2011 and subsequently sentenced by a Revolutionary Court in Tehran to five years’ imprisonment for “insulting Islamic sanctities” for establishing a spiritual doctrine and group called Erfan-e Halgheh. His prison sentence was considered complete in February 2016 taking into account the time he had also spent in pre-trial detention in 2010.

In August 2015, a Revolutionary Court in Tehran further convicted him of “spreading corruption on earth” for his spiritual teachings and practices and sentenced him to death. In December of the same year, the Supreme Court quashed the death sentence, after concluding that Mohammad Ali Taheri’s activities before he was arrested in 2011 had not amounted to “spreading corruption on earth” as defined under the old Islamic Penal Code (which was in effect until 2013, when a new Islamic Penal Code was adopted). The court also noted the existence of a number of open but inactive investigation files against Mohammad Ali Taheri which addressed various allegations, including “apostasy” (ertedad), “insulting the Prophet” (sabbo alnabi), “gathering and colluding against national security” through his membership of the opposition guerrilla group Fadaian Khalq in the early years of the Islamic Republic, and “committing crimes against the physical integrity of multiple individuals and on a mass scale”, but said the investigations conducted into these allegations were incomplete and flawed. The Supreme Court, therefore, returned the case to the Revolutionary Court to order further investigations that could support these charges. In June 2016, Mohammad Ali Taheri was acquitted of the charge of “spreading corruption on earth” and the other charges against him were dropped.

Over the course of his imprisonment, Mohammad Ali Taheri has undertaken a total of 16 hunger strikes and attempted suicide four times in protest at his prolonged solitary confinement, lack of access to his family and lawyer and repeated death threats against him and his family.

The Human Rights Committee, which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party, stated in its General Comment 20 that prolonged solitary confinement may violate the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment, in accordance to Article 7 of the ICCPR. The

UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) prohibits the practice of prolonged solitary confinement, considered to be a time period in excess of 15 consecutive days. Mohammad Ali Taheri has spent over five years in solitary confinement in Tehran's Evin Prison – since his 4 May 2011 arrest.

Article 18 of the ICCPR protects “the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”. This right includes freedom to have or adopt a belief of one's choice. It also includes freedom to manifest the belief in observance, practice and teaching, either individually or in community with others in public or private.

Political prisoner in critical condition in Karaj Prison (Western Tehran)

Monday, 17 October 2016 01:57

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/human-rights/21304-political-prisoner-in-critical-condition-in-karaj-prison-western-tehran>



NCRI - Despite being in a critical condition, Delshad Vasimi, a political prisoner held in Karaj Rajayee Shahr Prison, has been returned to prison from hospital while the prison officials have even prevented him from having access to health services. He is now being left in a complicated situation. Having the signs of beatings and even a possible mock execution, the political prisoner is suffering from a severe psychological blow and in a kind

of shock.

According to human rights sources from Iran, the security prisoner Delshad Vasimi was transferred to the political prisoners' hall at Rajayee Shahr Prison on Wednesday October 5, while having signs of injury and specially scratch marks on his neck.

Being in a very poor physical condition, Vasimi was taken to hospital from the political prisoners' hall, but was returned without completing his medical treatment. He was then transferred to ward 7, hall 21 where the Sunni prisoners are being held.

Regarding Vasimi's physical condition, a source close to him told Harana: “after his return from hospital, Vasimi has been left for a few days on a bed next to the entrance of ward 7, while being unable to eat or speak and in a semi-conscious state.”

The source also stressed: “Delshad is severely mentally imbalanced. He is an emergency patient who needs to be hospitalized under the supervision of a specialist. But unfortunately the prison officials pay no attention to his condition and have never pursued his treatment.”

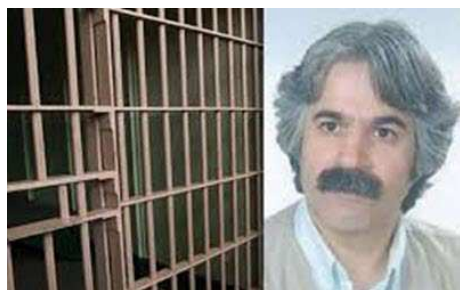
Delshad Vasimi, a Sunni citizen born in 1989 in Paveh and residing in Tehran, was arrested on July 4, 2016.

Previously, the sources had reported on Vasimi's status when arriving at the Rajayee Shahr political prisoners' hall: “he has scars on his face and a big mark, similar to a rope mark, is around his neck.” Having signs of beatings and even a possible mock execution, this political prisoner is suffering from a severe psychological blow and in a kind of shock.

Iran: humiliating conditions in exchange for release from prison

Monday, 17 October 2016 01:03

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/human-rights/21305-iran-humiliating-conditions-in-exchange-for-release-from-prison-2>



NCRI - The political prisoner Mehdi Farahi Shandiz who was being held in Gohardasht Prison's quarantine and solitary confinement, has been transferred to ward 4, Hall 12 of the prison on Sunday October 9. It should be mentioned that although his sentence has ended, but he has been asked to provide a huge bail in order to get released. If unable to provide the bail, he will have to wear an ankle bracelet on his release from prison to be constantly monitored. Farahi Shandiz has refused to accept such humiliating terms.

Also the intelligence agents as well as Gohardasht Prison officials have offered a number of prisoners, including two Baha'i political prisoners Mousivand and Jalilzadeh, to wear electronic ankle bracelets in exchange for their release. These prisoners have not agreed to such humiliating terms either.

In a letter in this regard, Mehd Farahi Shandiz writes:

I was summoned a few days ago by the Rajayee Shahr Prison officials to the Office of Enforcement and asked to pay three million as well as a monthly fee of 350,000 Tomans in order to get released. I did not accept such humiliation. Besides, I tell the heads the tyranny that if anyone should ever be chained, that would be you the enemies of Iran who betrayed 80 million Iranian people as much as you could. And if anyone should be chained in a people's court, that would be you (Khamenei, Rafsanjani, ...) and all your gangs who turned Syria, Iraq and Yemen into a real hell, not me, a teacher whose only sin has been defending the rights of the Iranian people. I will never accept such humiliation and ask other prisoners of conscience not to agree with such humiliating terms either. Being chained deserves the beasts who destroyed the peace and comfort of Iranian people and the region.

IRAN: Over \$60000 Bail Set For a Lawyer Wearing a Protest T- Shirt

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 22:56

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/ncri-statements/human-rights/21319-over-60000-bail-set-for-a-lawyer-wearing-a-protest-t-shirt-in-iran>

NCRI - According to an informed source in Iran, Mohammad Najafi, a lawyer, has been arrested on October 11 by the intelligence forces in Shazand, Markazi province, for wearing a shirt on the street which read 'Ashura 88', a reference to December 2009 anti-regime protests. **Over \$60000** bail has been set for his release.

"Najafi was arrested on October 11. He called his family one day later on Wednesday October 12, telling them that a **Over \$60000** bail has been set for his release and that he would be transferred to and held in Arak Prison by the time of posting bail.", the source said.

As for the reason why Mr. Najafi had been wearing a shirt with 'Ashura 88' on it, the source explained: "Mr. Najafi had participated in the well-known protest rallies in Tehran on Ashura 88 (December 2009) and was arrested in the event. So, this day has a special meaning for him

so that he wanted to commemorate the protests and the crackdown on people on that day and that's probably the reason why he was arrested."

Iran Hands Iranian-American Businessman And His Father 10-Year Prison Sentences

October 18, 2016

<http://www.rferl.org/a/iran-businessman-namazi-american-father-jailed/28061053.html>



Siamak Namazi (right) and his father, Baquer (file photo).

The family of an Iranian-American businessman and his 80-year-old father say the two men have been sentenced to 10 years in prison by an Iranian court that convicted them of collaborating with the United States.

The detentions of Siamak and his father, Baquer Namazi, have [drawn protests from the United States](#).

Siamak Namazi has been in Iranian custody since being detained on his arrival in Tehran in October 2015.

Baquer Namazi, a retired UNICEF official who also holds dual Iranian-American citizenship, was detained in February after traveling to Iran to seek his son's release.

The Mizan news agency, which is controlled by Iran's judiciary, reported on October 18 that the two were jailed for "collaborating with the hostile American government."

Siamak's brother, Babak, said in a statement obtained by RFE/RL that the 10-year sentence issued on October 18 amounted to a life sentence for their father.

"It is beyond comprehension that the court and those holding our loved ones have criminalized the humanitarian efforts of my father and brother," he said.

Friends have described Siamak Namazi as a businessman who avoided politics except for a time when he lobbied Washington to end a U.S. embargo on selling medicines to Iran.

Earlier this week, Mizan [posted a minute-long video](#) showing a montage of clips including Siamak in a conference room, his arms raised at his sides, and his U.S. passport.

UNICEF, where Baquer Namazi had worked as a representative to Somalia, Kenya and Egypt, took note of the sentence with "sadness and personal concern," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Dujarric added that Namazi "deserves a peaceful retirement and UNICEF appeals for his release on humanitarian grounds."

The United States also expressed "deep concern" about the two men being "unjustly detained," said Mark Toner, a spokesman for the U.S. State Department.

"We join recent calls by international organizations and UN human rights experts for the immediate release of all U.S. citizens unjustly detained in Iran, including Siamak and Baquer Namazi, so that they can return to their families," Toner said.

In recent months, several Iranians who hold dual nationalities, including American, have been detained in Iran.

It is unclear exactly what has prompted the detentions, although some observers say it is part of a behind-the-scenes struggle between allies of the reform-minded President Hassan Rohani and hard-line factions such as the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).

The detentions also come as channels of communication slowly open between Tehran and the West following last year's landmark agreement that lifted punishing international sanctions in exchange for restrictions on Iran's disputed nuclear program.

A Group of Prisoners Transferred to an Unknown Location in Rajaei Shahr Prison

Posted on: 19th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/group-prisoners-transferred-unknown-location-rajaei-shahr-prison>



Rajai-Shahr Prison in Karaj, Tehran, Iran

HRANA News Agency – After representative of ward number 11 of section 4 in Rajaei Shahr prison insulted the third Imam of Shia, poisoners started a protest and prevented him from entering the hall. Some of the prisoners were transferred to an unknown location and there is no information about them.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), after a group of prisoners asked the representative of the ward in hall number 11 of section 4 in Rajaei Shahr prison, for black textile for honoring Muharram month, on Thursday September 29, he denied their request and insulted the third Imam of Shia.

When prisoners complained, he mentioned that internal manager of the prison was a relative of him, and threatened the prisoners. These actions made prisoners angry and they started a protest and prevented him from entering the ward.

After these tensions, many prisoners were transferred to an unknown location and there is no information about them.

HRANA has identified some of the transferred prisoners as: Axhdar Zadkhak, Seyed Hasan Hossainipoor, Mohammad Azizi and Abbas Taheri.

Prison conditions in Iran cause slow death of prisoners

October 19, 2016

<http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3175>



A letter from political prisoners in Rejaishahr, Iran

In a letter addressed to Asma Jahangir, the Special Rapporteur of the UN Human Rights Council on Iran, Amnesty International and Human rights Watch, a group of political prisoners in Rejaishahr Prison in Karaj protest against the violation of their basic rights as prisoners.

Mohabat News _ Referring to themselves as Prisoners of conscience imprisoned in Hall 12, Ward 4 of Rajaishahr Prison they maintain that prison authorities are committing repeated violations of the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Organization of Prisons by refusing to provide the prisoners with the necessary facilities. They add that the violations are causing prisoners various harms and health challenges and leading to their slow death.

In the letter that political prisoners have written from inside Iran's Rejaishahr prison, maintains that shortage of over the counter and prescription medications is a serious concern in prison.

These political prisoners write that most prisoners are forced to bear the cost of their medical procedures and medications. Prisoners are forced to get prescription medications from outside of prison, through their families who in turn go through much hurdle to get the medications to inmates inside the prison.

The letter stresses that articles 102 and 103 of the prison Rules of Procedure entrusts the prison authorities with the health of prisoner. All the costs of healthcare and facilities associated with that are also the responsibility of prisons authorities.

They go on to add that Rejaishahr prison, does not have a operational clinic or the presence of necessary medical staff and is at times without nursing staff. The nurses assigned to the clinic cannot even provide prisoners in need of medical care with an intravenous injection.

The letter adds that there is no operation room in Rejaishahr Prison and the health facility was closed down six years ago after rumours around sale of prisoner organs and was never reopened.

The prisoners explain that their families often face serious obstacles in obtaining leave for them to undergo medical examinations or procedures outside. When permission is given, prisoners are reportedly transported to the hospital in demeaning conditions and while there, they are chained to hospital beds.

At times prisoners are reportedly forcefully returned back to prison by the authorities, without completion of the medical tests and procedures.

The letter adds that Rejaishahr Prison has a number of prisoners suffering from Hepatitis and AIDS who never receive adequate care. It also names Mohsen Dogmehchi, Shahrokh Zamani, Alireza Karami Kheyraadi, Mansour Radpour, Afshin Osanloo and Mehdi Zaleh as some of the prisoners who have died in prison as a result of the lack of timely medical care and negligence of prison authorities.

The prisoners report that hot water is never provided in washrooms and sometimes not even in showers.

The aging piping reportedly often causes sewage overflows on various levels of the prison building. They say prison food, in contravention of prison rules, lacks the necessary calories and nutrition and prisoners are continuously in a half starved conditions. According to the letter and use of expired and unsanitary food handling has caused many cases of food poisoning.

The authorities are said to have no regard for the standards stipulated in the prison rules for space and amount of light required for each prisoner who are afforded less than half of these standards.

Ward 12 of Rejaishahr, where many political prisoners are, does not have telephone facilities while other wards hosting prisoners with criminal charges, have uninterrupted access to telephones at all times.

Meanwhile the prisoners report that despite presence of prison regulations protecting prisoners' dignity, prisoners are often subjected to insults and inappropriate searches which are at times carried out under threats of or actual violence.

Ramazan Ahmad Kamal, Syrian political prisoner held in Rejaishahr, is cited as an example of such violence. The prisoners was reportedly beaten severely by one of the prison guards putting him in coma for a week. Kamal's efforts, and those of other prisoners who have been subjected to similar beatings, to file complaints and hold guards accountable for such deeds have been futile.

Wife Of Iranian-Austrian Jailed In Iran Proclaims His Innocence

October 20, 2016

<http://www.rferl.org/a/iranian-austrian-ghaderi-jailed-wife-proclaims-innocence/28065723.html>



Iranian-Austrian businessman Kamran Ghaderi (file photo)

The wife of an Iranian-Austrian man sentenced recently by an Iranian court to 10 years in prison on spying charges has told RFE/RL's Radio Farda that her husband is a "simple businessman" unjustly imprisoned.

Harika Ghaderi's husband, businessman Kamran Ghaderi, was initially detained in Tehran in January but his conviction and sentence for espionage and cooperation with the United States were revealed earlier this week.

"How can they say something like that about Kamran? I don't understand," Ghaderi's wife said, adding that he had no ties to the United States and was not involved in politics.

She said the family is planning to appeal the sentence.

Tehran Prosecutor General Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi said on October 18 that the 52-year-old Ghaderi was [among six individuals](#) who received 10-year sentences for what he described as spying and working with the hostile government in Washington.

The others include [80-year-old Iranian-American Baquer Namazi and his son](#) Siamak Namazi, Farhad Abd-Saleh, Alireza Omidvar, and Nizar Zakka.

Ghaderi is the CEO of Avanoc, an IT management and consulting company that has worked in Iran for many years, his wife told Radio Farda.

"Everything he's [been] doing is legal," she added.

Harika Ghaderi said her husband was among a number of Austrian businessmen and companies at an [official Austrian-Iranian trade meeting](#) in Tehran in 2015 that was attended by senior officials, including former Austrian President Heinz Fischer.

"He was working in Iran; it's not forbidden," she said.

She said Ghaderi, a father of three, was detained during a business trip to Iran and was being held at Tehran's notorious Evin prison.

The family did not publicize the case at the time on advice from Ghaderi's lawyer, she said, adding that he had assured them that her husband would be released.

But the prison sentence has prompted her to speak out in the media.

Her husband was allowed to call his mother in April for the first time since his arrest, she said. Since then, she added, Ghaderi's mother has been allowed to visit him in prison every second week.

Ghaderi's wife said that her husband has lost a lot of weight since his arrest.

The prison sentences against a number of dual nationals, whom Tehran regards merely as Iranians, comes amid a power struggle between allies of the reform-minded President Hassan Rohani and hard-line factions such as the powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) who oppose any opening of the country following last year's nuclear agreement with world powers to ease international sanctions.

Iran: How Did you Kill my Sister and Brothers and Where Did you Bury them?

Thursday, 20 October 2016 15:44

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/human-rights/254-stop-executions-in-iran/21326-iran-how-did-you-kill-my-sister-and-brothers-and-where-did-you-bury-them>



NCRI - Four members of her family, three brothers and one sister, were executed for supporting the People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran (PMOI or MEK) and she only received a few bags containing their belongings. Her sister and one of her brothers were executed during the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran and now Maryam Akbari Monfared has filed official complaint from the prison and asked

Tehran prosecutor's office to investigate the death of his brother and sister who were executed in the summer of 1988 while serving their prison sentences.

She asked the families of other victims of the (killings and massacre in) 1980s to officially demand “the indictment of the victims and those who were executed in the 1980s be made available and published.” She also asked the families to demand and follow up on the “trial of the masterminds and perpetrators of the executions in 1980s and massacre of political prisoners in 1988 and announcement of the names of those buried in Khavaran cemetery and other mass graves.”

Maryam Akbari’s life story is bitter and full of ups and downs. She herself was arrested in December 2009 after the 2009 uprising and the Ashura protests. In 1 June 2010, the notorious Judge Salavati sentenced her to fifteen years in prison on the charges of “Moharebeh (waging war against God)” through membership in the PMOI.

Maryam has repeatedly denied the charges but judge Salavati has said only one sentence to her: “You suffer (are sentenced) because of your siblings.” Four of her brothers and sisters have earlier been executed by the regime on the charges of supporting the PMOI. Several members of his family are living in Albania but she is not allowed to meet them.

Now spending her 7th year of prison sentence, she decided to file a complaint against the perpetrators of 1988 massacre. She wrote an agonizing letter in which she said: “Many of those who were executed in 1988, including my sister and brother, had already been sentenced to prison terms. They had been tried in courts that lasted a few minutes without due process and their crimes were at most reading or distributing newspaper (published by the PMOI) or participating in peaceful demonstrations.”

Abdolreza Akbari Monfared, the younger brother of the family, was arrested in 1980 at the age of 17 and “his crime was distributing ‘Mojahed’ newspaper. He spent three full years in solitary confinement in Gohardasht (Rajaei Shahr) prison.” He was sentenced to three year imprisonment but held in prison until the summer of 1988 when he was executed during the massacre of political prisoners.

Gholamreza Akbari Monfared, another brother of Maryam, was arrested in 1983 and executed in 1985.

Alireza Akbari Monfared, another brother of Maryam, was also arrested on 8 September 1981 and executed in prison 11 days later on September 19 of the same year. “The whole process of his arrest, trail and implementation of death sentence lasted only 10 days. In his commemoration ceremony on the seventh night of his death, the regime agents raided our house and arrested a number of people and transferred them to Evin prison and the Joint Committee detention. Among those arrested were my mother and my sister, Roghiyeh Akbari Monfared,” Maryam writes.

Her Mother’s prison term was not long and she was released after 5 months. But Maryam’s sister, Roghiyeh, remained in prison and was later sentenced by a court to 8 years imprisonment which ended in the summer of 1988 following her execution during the massacre of political prisoners.

In another part of the letter, Maryam writes about her father’s fate and that he did not have a chance to see his children again at Camp Ashraf before passing away. Maryam writes: “My father, Ali Osat Akbari Monfared, passed away in 2005 after years of suffering due to imprisonment and execution of his children and disappointment to meet again with his other

children who were at the time in Camp Ashraf because meeting with them was prohibited [by the regime] and considered a crime. Right now, some of my family members – including my brother, sister, nephew and niece – are in Albania and we are not allowed to meet (visit) them.”

In addition to Maryam, her other brother, Reza Akbari Monfared, 63, is spending his 17 years prison term in Gohardasht prison. Regarding all the pressures put on the families of the victims of the 1980s killings and massacre by the regime, Maryam writes: “All the pressure that put on us is now imposed on our families and is affecting their lives. Some families are torn apart after all the sufferings and many others are suffering from various physical and mental illnesses. Some of them are forced to fled the country and migrate to other countries and many others live [in isolation] in the corner of their privacy. The arrest and detention of our loved ones were like kidnapping. We were not informed about the time of their trial or their whereabouts.”

As she narrates, after the executions, they [the mullahs’ agents] not only did not release the will and testament of those executed to their families, but also “refused to hand over their bodies to the families and kept secret their burial place as well. They did not even allow us over these years to hold a memorial ceremony (mourning) for our loved ones. First, they threatened us and closed on us an unnamed cemetery, now known as Khavaran cemetery, which is the burial place of our loved ones. Another time they turned the graves of our loved ones upside down and smashed their tombstones.”

It seems after the release of an audio file Maryam’s grieving was refreshed. In the audio file, Ayatollah Montazeri, former Deputy Supreme Leader and Khomeini’s nominated successor at the time, exposes the 1988 massacre of 30,000 political prisoners in Iran and harshly criticizes members of the “Death Commission” in Tehran, including Mostafa Pour-Mohammadi (current Justice Minister in Rouhani’s government), Hossein-Ali Nayeri, Morteza Eshraghi, and Ebrahim Raeisi, responsible for the massacre. Referring to the audio file, Maryam believes that the execution of political prisoners including her sister and brother in 1988 was illegal and against the laws.

According to a new law on due process and approximation of penalties, Maryam Akbari Monfared should now be released from the prison, but her request for retrial and implementation of the new law has been under consideration and review by the Supreme Court for months.

During this time, she was not even granted furlough for her daughter's surgery. She concludes her letter with these words: "Now that I am writing this letter, I do not know after releasing the letter what fate awaits me. But with the knowledge of all possible consequences, I demand clarification on how the 1988 massacre of political prisoners, especially my sisters and my brother, was carried out.”

Young Prisoner Commits suicide due to Unjust Sentence and Disastrous Prison Conditions

Friday, 21 October 2016 10:48

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/197-issues/human-rights/21328-young-prisoner-commits-suicide-due-to-unjust-sentence-and-disastrous-prison-conditions>

NCRI - A young prisoner in Ilam prison has committed suicide due to his unjust sentence and the catastrophic prison situation.

Shahryar Tarhani, 27, from Koohdasht, Lorestan province, who had been held in Ilam prison for four years for carrying illegal weapons, committed suicide by taking rice tablets. Prison officials' inaction and delay in sending him to hospital led to his death.

In his will left among his belongings, Shahryar Tarhani has said that the reason for his suicide has been his unjust sentence and the disastrous prison conditions. According to his friends, Tarhani had repeatedly demanded that his case be dealt with and a lawyer be hired for him, but the Ilam's executioner prosecutor rejected his requests. Tarhani had also attempted suicide in the past to protest against prison conditions, but his wardmates had noticed early and saved him.

Tarhani's funeral was carried out one day later among a crowd of people in Koohdasht.

Critical sanitary situation in Kermanshah Dizel Abad Prison

According to reports, it's now one week that the water has been cut off in the Youth Ward of Kermanshah Dizel Abad Prison, being turned on only after 12 midnight and only for a few hours. Considering the crowding of prisoners, the need for water for sanitation, nutrition and bathing is among the basic necessities in prison. Prisoners have held protest rallies several times but so far, the protests have been fruitless.

According to the executioner head of Dizel Abad Prison, the replacement of the plumbing system is the reason the water has been cut off, whereas due to the elongated plumbing project and the negligence of the officials concerned, the sanitary situation in the ward is close to a real catastrophe.

In this regard, the concerns of families are also noteworthy. The families say that in terms of sanitation, the prison environment by itself is a filthy, inappropriate, too old, and unhealthy place, let alone its water be cut off with more than 500 prisoners. According to families, living in such deplorable conditions is definitely unacceptable in terms of basic human rights.

A 'Totally Shocked' Prisoner Transferred to Rajaei Shahr Prison

Posted on: 21st October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/totally-shocked-prisoner-transferred-rajaei-shahr-prison>

HRANA News Agency – A political prisoner with some special injuries on his neck and face was transferred to political prisoners ward in Rajaei Shahr prison in Karaj. He is in shock, and probably has experienced unbearable mental pressures. This prisoner doesn't speak or move normally and avoids any Interaction with other prisoners.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), on October 5th, Delshad Vasimi, who has been charged with acts against the national security was transferred to political prisoners' ward of Rajaei Shahr prison of Karaj after three months in solitary confinement.

An informed source described his condition: "There is an injury on his face and also there is a long track line like a robe on his neck and he looks like 22 or 23 years old".

According to this report this security or political prisoner probably has been the victim of fake execution by hanging, and suffers from severe mental shock. He does not speak with anybody or interact with others.

Need to be mentioned, there is no information about the details of his case, allegations, date of the arrest, and the location where he had been kept during interrogations.

Children's Rights

Iran: 700 Child Laborers and Street Children In Only one Province (Kermanshah)

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 07:47

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/society/21308-iran-700-child-laborers-and-street-children-in-only-one-province-kermanshah>



NCRI - The Iranian regime's director general of social welfare in the province of Kermanshah – Western Iran, said there are 700 child laborers in the province. He claimed that the Welfare policy is in line with the “support and empowerment” of child laborers and street children. This is while in an article last month, a local newspaper reported that the regime agents have been shaving heads of street children and

child laborers in the city of Kermanshah to humiliate them and prevent their presence in the streets.

In his remarks while claiming to provide support for child laborers, Omid Qaderi said: “Children who [are forced to] work on the streets to earn a living may be only a child laborer, an unsupervised or badly supervised child, or an orphan or abandoned child on the street.”

He said the social welfare organization is in charge of taking care of the street children and child laborers and claimed: “Kermanshah is a leading province in addressing child laborers and in 2000 we have launched a center for street children in the province. After the children are identified and determine to be whether simply a child laborer or an orphaned and abandoned child, the center holds them in their custody and provides them with counseling and health screening services. In the child care center, they offer services that lead to empowerment and return of the children to the community.”

While this local authority claims to be addressing and providing services for child laborers, in August this year, Bakhtar newspaper in an article reported that an unnamed government institution [have been] shaving heads of these children in Kermanshah and humiliating them to prevent their presence in the streets. According to the report, these children were likely facing arrest and detention in the institution for a few days.

No accurate statistics on the number of child laborers

The director of social welfare in the province of Kermanshah revealed that there are 600 to 700 child laborers in the province and said: “Of this number, 300 have been identified, but due to the nature of the work the number of [statistics on] child laborers in the province and the country is not accurate.”

Referring to the plan for “consolidating child laborers and street children” in accordance with the Cabinet Ministers’ decision, Qaderi admitted: “This plan is done in partnership with the governorate, judiciary, municipalities, and the police and then the Welfare organization enters the project as social worker,” according to state-run Mersad News.

“According to the law, child labor is prohibited but regarding those (children) who are forced to work for a living, the Welfare organization’s policy in the field is empowerment of the children,” he claimed.

Iran: Nearly 2000 complaints Recorded over school Corporal Punishment in 2014-15

Thursday, 20 October 2016 14:37

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/society/21324-iran-nearly-2000-complaints-recorded-over-school-corporal-punishment-in-2014-15>

NCRI - According to the head of Ministry of Education’s Office of Assessment and Responding to Complaints, regarding the school corporal punishment, a total of 1,924 complaints have been recorded in the past two years of which 1,274 cases have been recognized as ‘justifiable’.

According to ILNA news agency, Rahim Mirshah Valad said on Saturday October 15, that a total of 80 thousand complaints have been recorded in the past two years over different issues, 1,249 of which have been related to physical punishment in 2014. In 2015, however, the number of complaints in this regard has been nearly halved to 675 cases.

Mirshah Valad said that of 1, 924 complaints recorded in the past two years, 1,274 cases have been recognized as ‘justifiable’ and the other 650 as ‘unjustifiable’.

In this regard, according to MirShahValad, 36 cases have been submitted to the Board of Administrative Offences. Besides, 186 written and 518 verbal warnings have been given to teachers by the Ministry of Education and 152 teachers have obtained the plaintiffs’ consents.

MirShahValad also announced that ‘a report is being prepared’ regarding the physical punishment of a student in Tehran district 9, which led to the student’s broken head.

Recently, ‘Rooydad 24’ website had reported that a student named Mohammad Reza Taheri has been beaten by his teacher at a school located in Tehran district 9, which has led to Taheri’s head being broken.

The student has told ‘Rooydad 24’ that his teacher hit him so that his head hit the class door and ended up with a ‘broken forehead with three stitches’.

In recent days, there have been reports of students being beaten in Golestan, Sistan and Baluchestan and Kerman provinces.

In this regard, Mohammad Mehdi Zahedi, Kerman representative and the chairman of Parliament’s Education and Research Commission, announced on Saturday October 15 that in order to investigate these reports, a number of representatives will soon be sent to Kerman, Sistan and Baluchestan and Golestan provinces and the teachers involved will be introduced to judicial authorities for investigations in case their violations are authenticated.

Working children earn 8-9 Dollars a day. Collecting 1370 street children in the past six months

Sunday, 23 October 2016 09:15

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/society/21333-working-children-earn-8-9-dollars-a-day-collecting-1370-street-children-in-the-past-six-months>



NCRI - According to state news agency Mizan, the Deputy to the Welfare Organization's Social Affairs have said that "in collaboration with charity institutions, we have been able to organize 1370 street and working children in the past six months."

In an interview with the Mizan news agency's Society Group, Habibollah Masoudi Farid has said: "in collaboration with 17 NGOs, we could identify and organize 1370 working and street children."

He added: "the NGOs have been responsible for identifying and organizing the children while the Welfare Organization has been supervising the process."

The Deputy to the Welfare Organization's Social Affairs pointed out that 400 children have been collected from throughout Tehran since the beginning of the plan to collect street children one month ago, and added: "in collaboration with Welfare Organization we could identify and organize 400 working and street children and refer them to Welfare Organization's day and night centers."

Masoudi Farid emphasized that 90 percent of the working and street children have families and added: "according to our studies on the status of working and street children, it was found that 90 percent of them had families and only ten percent of them, mostly among foreign nationals, were unaccompanied children."

He acknowledged that "a significant number of street children in Tehran come from deprived cities and provinces like Sistan and Baluchestan."

The Deputy to the Welfare Organization's Social Affairs stressed that "deprived families head to Tehran for beggary as the opportunities to practice beggary in Tehran are available."

In response to a question on the amount of daily income earned by street and working children, Masoudi Farid said: "according to our studies, the working and street children earn 6 to 10 Dollars a day, so we can say that on average they earn between 8 to 9 Dollars a day."

He also reported on the negotiations between the Welfare Organization and Tehran municipality and pointed out that "in order to organize working and street children collected from throughout Tehran, we need to set up 20 new centers for their maintenance and in this regard we have submitted our request to Tehran municipality to provide us with such places."

Women's Rights

RSF backs global campaign for Narges Mohammadi's release

October 21, 2016

<https://rsf.org/en/news/rsf-backs-global-campaign-narges-mohammadis-release>

Reporters Without Borders (RSF) supports the “Global Solidarity for the Release of Narges Mohammadi” campaign launched last weekend by the Defenders for Human Rights Centre in Iran, which is led by Nobel peace laureate Shirin Ebadi. An Iranian journalist, Mohammadi is the centre’s spokesperson.

“By joining this campaign, we are denouncing the persecution of journalists and human rights defenders in Iran,” RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire said. “We hope that an energetic international campaign in support of this courageous Iranian woman will persuade the Iranian authorities to free her immediately.”

[When Ebadi and Deloire](#) met Paris mayor **Anne Hidalgo** last month, Hidalgo expressed great concern about the fate of this journalist and staunch women’s rights advocate, who was awarded the City of Paris medal on 3 May (World Press Freedom Day). The City of Paris called for Mohammadi’s release in a [tweet](#) on 29 September.

Aged 46, Mohammadi has been [detained since May 2015](#) and was sentenced to a total of 16 years in prison in April of this year at the end of trial that was marked by irregularities and influenced by the ministry of intelligence. The sentence was upheld by an appeal court on 27 September.

Mohammadi is required to serve 10 of the 16 years under a law adopted in 2015, according to which anyone convicted on several criminal charges serves only the sentence corresponding to the most important charge.

She had often been subjected to intimidation and arbitrary detention in the past. When arrested in 2010, she was held for several months and then released provisionally because her health had deteriorated alarmingly as a result of heavy-handed interrogation sessions. She nonetheless spent another three months in prison in 2012.

Since her return to prison in 2015, she has been denied the medical attention she needs and her health is now in great danger.

Iran Detains 11 Involved In Online Modeling Network

October 16, 2016

<http://www.rferl.org/a/iran-modeling-network-/28057230.html>



Iranian women wearing hijabs. (file photo)

Iranian authorities say they have detained 11 members of a modeling network.

The semi-official Tasnim news agency said the network was involved in producing and publishing pornographic pictures and spreading “depravity” in society.

The reports said the 11 people detained were “key elements” of the network, which was

active in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan.

The government news agency IRNA reported that 50 people were apprehended and released after receiving “guidance.”

Three underground studios used by the network were shut down, the reports said.

In May, authorities announced an operation targeting modeling posts on Instagram.

Authorities said several people had been arrested for posting pictures of women without their compulsory hijab -- a crime in Iran.

Twenty bizarre bans on Iranian women by misogynic mullahs’ regime ruling Iran

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 08:04

<http://www.ncr-iran.org/en/news/women/21310-twenty-bizarre-bans-on-iranian-women-by-misogynic-mullahs-regime-ruling-iran>



NCRI - Many of the prohibitions that Iranian women are facing are considered bizarre and odd by their counterparts in many other countries. The bans have been changed over time and sometimes become more intense. Let’s get familiar with some of these bans.

Deutsche Welle Farsi has collected and published in a report a list of strange prohibitions for Iranian women

in Iran as the followings:

Cycling is prohibited for women

One of the latest prohibitions Iranian women are facing is a ban on bike riding. Recently, Ali Khamenei, Iranian regime’s supreme leader, answering a question on women’s cycling said: “Women’s cycling in public places and also in places where they are visible to strangers is forbidden.”

Women selfies with footballers is prohibited

After some Iranian women published in social networks their selfies with famous footballers in the recent years, the Iranian regime’s so-called “ethics committee” announced: “Women taking selfi photos [with male footballers] is prohibited.”

Employment of women in coffee shops is prohibited

In Iran, women are not allowed to work in some fields. In the latest example of such instance, Iranian Police announced: “Women’s employment in coffee shops (cafés) and coffeehouses is prohibited.”

Iranian women are not allowed to wear boots on pants

Iranian police, in line with their “winter combat (against mal-veiling)” plan, have announced that women are prohibited from wearing boots on pants.

Using hat or cap instead of scarf (veil) by women is prohibited

Iranian police also prohibited women from using hats instead of scarves or veils and announced: “Those women who use hats (as a veil) instead of head scarves and wear tight and short winter coats will be dealt with.”

Women are prohibited swimming while wearing maillot or “swimming suit”

In Iran under the rule of mullahs, women are not allowed to wear swimsuit for swimming in front of “stranger men.”

Women are barred from going on stage

According to Sharq newspaper, “Women musicians and performers in 13 provinces in Iran are not allowed to go on the stage for musical performance [playing musical instruments or singing, etc.]”

Women are not allowed to enter sport stadiums

In Iran [under the rule of mullahs], women are not allowed to enter sport stadiums such as football or volleyball stadiums when men are playing matches.

Women are not allowed to go to men’s section of Metro (Subway) or Bus

A small section of the buses and subways in Iran is allocated to women and they are not allowed to sit in the men’s section which is much bigger [even if women’s section is full and men’s section is empty].

Wearing Support (legging) is prohibited for women

The Iranian regime’s police have in recent years prohibited women from wearing Support (or leggings).

Women are not allowed to let their hair come out of either or both sides of their scarf or veil

The Iranian regime’s Police and Security forces have announced: “In the discussion on scarf and veil there is a point. Some people (women) think that if their hair is not shown from both sides of scarf but let their hair come out (and be seen) from one side of the scarf, this is not an instance of mal-veiling. In response, they should be told that changing the type of hairdressing is not applicable (the same) as fixed veiling (i.e. is not acceptable as proper veiling).”

Female students are prohibited to go camping with men

State-run Iranian media published an overview of the students mixed (gender) camping in the city of Jiroft as an example of non-compliance with “Islamic values” and a taboo.

Any contraceptive surgery is prohibited for women

In line with the Iran Regime's policy to encourage population growth, any surgical procedure to prevent pregnancy is prohibited (for women) in Iran. In addition, publicity and advertising about contraception is also prohibited.

Women's entry into coffeehouse and providing hookah to women is prohibited

According to the Union of coffeehouse (café) and traditional table houses, women's entry into regular coffeehouses is "illegal" and the traditional coffee - and table - houses are "not authorized" to provide hookah to women.

Divorce at the request of women is not allowed

In Iran under the rule of mullahs, only men have the right to divorce, except in exceptional cases. So, normally women do not have the right and are not allowed to divorce their husband even if a woman does not agree with her husband.

Iranian women are prohibited marrying non-Muslim men

According to Iranian regime's laws, Iranian women are not allowed to marry non-Muslim men. However, Iranian men are allowed to marry non-Muslim "People of the Books" such as Christians and Jews.

Women are not allowed to obtain a passport or travel abroad without husband's permission

According to Iranian regime's law, Iranian women are not allowed to obtain a passport or travel abroad without getting permission from their husband or legal male guardian.

Wearing manteau (coat) with writing on its back is prohibited for women

After the media affiliated with the Iranian regime's hardline faction criticized the release of "Women's manteau (coat) with writing on its back" in Iran, Iranian police has announced plans to deal with the importers of these women's coats.

Holding track and field competition for women wearing internationally recognized clothing for this sport such as shorts and short-sleeve T-shirts is prohibited.

... No explanation needed.

Iranian women are banned from education in some academic fields

In recent years, Iranian regime's oil minister announced: "Education of women in the field of operations such as drilling and processing and so on that require (physical) activities in operational areas and sites is useless and these are masculine (men's) jobs."

Freedom of Expression

Sadra Mohaghegh Released on the Bail

Posted on: 17th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/sadra-mohaghegh-released-bail>



HRANA News Agency – Sadra Mohaghegh, chief editor of Shargh Newspaper was released on the bail.

According to the report of the Human Rights Activists News Agency in Iran (HRANA), Sadra Mohaghegh, chief editor of Shargh Newspaper who had been arrested in his house was released on the bail on September 19th.

The hardliner media reported his charge as “reporting the internal situation of the country to the counter revolution media.”

Mr. Mohagheh had been arrested about 5 years ago, too.

The Verdict of Appeal Court of 4 Civil Rights Activists

Posted on: 18th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/verdict-appeal-court-4-civil-rights-activists>



HRANA News Agency – According to the issued verdict in branch number 36 of the appeal court of Tehran province, by judge Ghomizadeh for 4 civil rights activist, Atena (Fatimah) Daemi, Omid Alishenas, Aso Rostami and Ali Noori, their sentences have been reduced from respectively 14, 10, 7, and 7 to 7, 7, 2 and 2 years.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), the appeal court of 4 civil rights activists, Atena (Fatima) Daeimi, Omid

Alishenas, Aso Rostami, Ali Noori and Mohammad Hossain Daemi (Atena’s father) was held in branch number 36 of Tehran on August 3, and the verdict was submitted to their lawyers on September 28.

According to this verdict:

“Regarding the appeal request of 4 defendants mentioned in the lawsuit issued in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court of Tehran, based on which in primary court Atena (Fatima) Daemi was charged with crimes against national security and propaganda against the Islamic Republic, and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, also charged with insulting the supreme leader, sentenced to three years in prison, and finally charged with concealment of crime tools and sentenced to 4 years in prison; Omid Alishenas was charged with possession of CDs and sentenced to 7 million IRR fine, and also charges with possession of satellite equipment, sentenced to 5 million IRR fines; Ali Nouri was charged with acts against the national security and propaganda against the Islamic Republic and sentenced to 5 years in prison, also charged with insulting the supreme leader, and sentenced to 2 years in prison;

Aso Rostami was charged with collusion for committing acts against the national security and propaganda against the regime, sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment, and charged with insulting the supreme leader sentenced to two years in prison.

Appeal court dropped the charge of using satellite equipment by Omid Alishenas, and according to defendant's denial and based on article 37 of the constitution, the court has acquitted him, and as result applying article 134 of the Islamic Penal Act to him is considered irrelevant, so the court modifies 7 years to 5 years and 3 years to 2 years for insulting the supreme leader. No need to mention that the previous sentence regarding possession of CDs is confirmed. About the defendant Fatima Daemi, her charge about concealment of crime's tool is dropped and due to denial and lack of evidence according to article 37 of constitution she is acquitted. Also without applying article 134 of Islamic penal act, her 7 years sentence is reduced to 5 years and 3 years for insulting the supreme leader is reduced to 2 years.

But in regard to defendants Ali Noori and Aso Rostami, the court has reduced their 5 years sentences for collusion to one year and half and two years sentence for insulting the supreme leader to 6 months, according to articles 37 and 38 of the Islamic Penal Act. These sentences are final".

Atena Daemi, 27, was arrested on October 21, 2014 and was held for 86 days in solitary confinement of ward 2-A. She was transferred to women's ward of Evin prison on January 18, 2015.

After several postponement of the court hearing, eventually in a court, presided by judge Moghiseh, judge of branch 28 of the Revolutionary Court in Tehran and in the presence of her solicitor and the other inmates (Omid Alishenas, Asuo Rostami, and Ali Nouri), she was charged with propaganda against the regime, gathering and collusion against the national security, insulting the Supreme Leader, insulting the Islamic Republic's founder and concealing evidence of the crime because of her peaceful civil activities, and was sentenced to 14 years in prison on March 14, 2015.

Omid Alishenas was arrested on September 4, 2014, and transferred to ward 2-A of Evin prison, which is controlled by the IRGC. Although a bail of 1000 million IRR had been issued for him, the court and the prosecutor's office eventually did not accept the bail for unknown reasons and he was transferred to ward number 8 for continuation of the interrogations.

Omid Alishenas was released on the bail from Evin prison after 16 months of detention.

Aso Rostami, other defendant of this case, had been arrested along with several others after a gathering to support Kobani in front of the UN office in Tehran, on Wednesday, October 8, 2014, and after a long time in solitary confinement and interrogation, he was transferred to ward 8 of Evin prison.

He was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment on charges of propaganda against the regime, gathering and collusion against the national security and insulting the supreme leader due to his peaceful civil activities.

Aso Rostami, social and civil rights activist, was released from Evin prison after sixteen months of detention.

Ali Nouri, civil rights activist was arrested during a protest in solidarity with Kobani in front of United Nations' office on October 8, 2014 and was transferred to ward 2-A of Evin prison, which is controlled by the IRGC and after a long period of interrogations and being held in solitary confinement he was transferred to ward 8 of Evin Prison.

After being released on the bail of 500 million IRR, he was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Labor and Guilds' Rights

Six-Year Prison Sentence Against Teachers Union Leader Upheld After Pressure by Revolutionary Guards

October 18, 2016

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2016/10/esmail-abdi/>



Branch 36 of the Tehran Appeals Court has upheld the six-year prison sentence against [Esmail Abdi](#), the chairman of the Iranian Teachers' Trade Association, confirmed Abdi in an interview with the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

Abdi said he believed the Appeals Court's decision was influenced by several alleged violations added to the indictment by the Sarallah Headquarters of the Revolutionary Guards. The alleged events, which took place while he was free on bail, were "purely professional and not political in nature," said Abdi.

آخرین تغییر ثبت شده برای این پرونده مربوط به تاریخ ۳۱/۶/۱۳۹۵ ساعت ۱۲:۰۶ می باشد
 رمز وارد شده مربوط به سامانه اسنادی می باشد
 ۱- پرونده کلاسه ۹۲۰۹۹۸۰۲۷۲۶۰۰۰۲۷ ردیف فرعی ۲ با علت طرح رسیدگی به تجدیدنظر خواهی نسبت به اتهامات اجتماع و تبانی برای ارتکاب جرم برضد امنیت داخلی / خارجی و تبلیغ علیه نظام جمهوری اسلامی در دادگاههای تجدیدنظر استان تهران به تاریخ ۳۱/۱/۱۳۹۵ ثبت گردید و با شماره بایگانی ۹۵۰۱۱۶ به شعبه ۲۶ دادگاه تجدیدنظر استان تهران مستقر در دادگاه انقلاب اسلامی ارجاع شد
 ۲- در تاریخ ۱۱/۲/۱۳۹۵ وقت نظارت دفتر برای تاریخ ۱۱/۱/۱۳۹۵ تعیین گردید
 ۳- لایحه از طرف هسنامه اسنادی با موضوع وصول وکالتنامه در تاریخ ۲۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ واصل و به شماره ۵۰۰۹۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۵ ثبت گردید
 ۴- در تاریخ ۳۱/۲/۱۳۹۵ وقت رسیدگی برای چهارشنبه مورخ ۱۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ ساعت ۱۱:۰۰ تعیین گردید
 ۵- لایحه شماره ۹۵۱۰۰۹۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۲۲ مورخ ۳۱/۲/۱۳۹۵ جهت حضور شما در شعبه ۲۶ دادگاه تجدیدنظر استان تهران مستقر در دادگاه انقلاب اسلامی در تاریخ ۱۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ ساعت ۱۱:۰۰ برای رسیدگی صادر شد
 ۶- لایحه مورخ ۳۱/۲/۱۳۹۵ جهت حضور پیمان حاج محمود عطار در تاریخ ۱۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ ساعت ۱۱:۰۰ برای رسیدگی صادر شد
 ۷- لایحه از طرف «اسماعیل عیدی» با موضوع اعلام عزل وکیل در تاریخ ۱۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ واصل و به شماره ۵۰۰۹۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۷۱ ثبت گردید
 ۸- در تاریخ ۲۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ وقت رسیدگی به لحاظ ضرورت استعاضا تجدید و به وقت نظارت در تاریخ ۱۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ تعیین گردید
 ۹- لایحه به شماره ۲۰/۱/۱۳۹۵ مورخ ۲۰/۲/۱۳۹۵ از طرف «فرزاد نازانه تهران» با موضوع لایحه دفاعیه در تاریخ ۱۳/۲/۱۳۹۵ واصل و به شماره ۵۰۰۹۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۹۱ ثبت گردید
 ۱۰- لایحه مورخ ۲۰/۲/۱۳۹۵ از طرف «فرزاد نازانه» با موضوع لایحه دفاعیه در تاریخ ۲۰/۲/۱۳۹۵ واصل و به شماره ۵۰۰۹۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۹۱ ثبت گردید
 ۱۱- در تاریخ ۲۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ وقت نظارت به لحاظ ضرورت استعاضا آخرین دفاع متهم تجدید و به وقت رسیدگی به تاریخ ۲۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ ساعت ۱۲:۰۰ تعیین گردید
 ۱۲- لایحه شماره ۹۵۱۰۰۹۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۳۹ مورخ ۲۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ جهت حضور شما در شعبه ۲۶ دادگاه تجدیدنظر استان تهران مستقر در دادگاه انقلاب اسلامی در تاریخ ۲۲/۲/۱۳۹۵ ساعت ۱۲:۰۰ برای رسیدگی صادر شد
 ۱۳- به اتهام اسماعیل عیدی متنی بر اجتماع و تبانی برای ارتکاب جرم برضد امنیت داخلی / خارجی و جمهوری اسلامی طی شماره ۹۵۰۹۹۷۰۰۲۲۳۶۰۰۰۳۵ مورخ ۳۱/۶/۱۳۹۵ رای مورد اعتراض ۱۱/۱/۱۳۹۵ ثبت شد

"According to a ruling delivered to my lawyer on October 7 (2016), the six-year prison sentence issued by the preliminary court has been upheld on appeal," he said. "I have been given the maximum punishment for two charges: one year for 'propaganda against the state' and five years for 'collusion against national security.'"

Screenshot of document on Judiciary's site listing additional accusations against Abdi to influence Appeals Court's verdict

"On June 1 (2016) my lawyer and I appeared at Branch 36 of the Tehran Appeals Court. At the end of the trial I asked for sentencing to be postponed so I could have a chance to show that our activities were purely professional and not political in nature. The Sarallah Headquarters, as the detaining authority, has had the wrong impression of our activities and has claimed that they were political in nature and directed

against the state," Abdi told the Campaign.

The labor rights leader was arrested on June 27, 2015 by the Revolutionary Guards' Intelligence Organization, a week after being barred from leaving Iran to attend an international teachers' conference in Canada. In his preliminary trial, Abdi was [sentenced](#) in February 2016 to six years in prison by Judge Abolqasem Salavati of Branch 15 of the Revolutionary Court for "propaganda against the state" and "collusion against national security."

Abdi said the Revolutionary Guards had petitioned the Appeals Court alleging he had broken the terms of his conditional release by visiting fellow labor activist [Jafar Azimzadeh](#) in the hospital.

"The Sarallah Headquarters added a statement to my case that after my release on bail I did not stop my trade union activities. As examples, they mentioned my visits with Mr. Azimzadeh and my interviews with domestic and foreign media," he said.

Abdi was detained four times by security forces between 2006 and 2009 for his peaceful activism, and in 2011 he was given a 10-year suspended prison sentence by the Tehran Revolutionary Court for "propaganda against the state" and "revealing information about security matters."

Labor activism in Iran is seen as a national security offense; independent [labor unions](#) are not allowed to function, strikers are often fired and risk arrest, and labor leaders are consistently [prosecuted](#) under catchall national security charges and sentenced to long prison terms.

In addition to Abdi, several senior members of the Teachers Trade Association of Iran have been arrested, jailed or sent into exile, including [Mahmoud Beheshti Langroudi](#), [Ali Akbar Baghani](#), and [Rasoul Bodaghi](#).

Two Labor Rights Activist Sentenced to 11 Years in Prison for Peaceful Activism

October 19, 2016

<https://www.iranhumanrights.org/2016/10/jafar-azimzadeh-and-shapour-ehsani-rad/>



Labor rights activists [Jafar Azimzadeh](#) and [Shapour Ehsani-Rad](#) were sentenced to 11 years in prison each for their peaceful activism on October 15, 2016 by Branch 1 of the Revolutionary Court in the city of Saveh, 76 miles southwest of Tehran.

According to the court's [ruling](#), Azimzadeh and Ehsani-Rad were each sentenced to 10 years in prison for "organizing and operating an illegal group" and one year in prison for "propaganda against the state." The alleged "illegal group" is the Free Workers Union of Iran, of which Azimzadeh is president and Ehsani-Rad is a member of the board of directors.

"I have been sentenced on the basis of charges I was tried and punished for before [for which I was] sentenced to six years in prison. In fact, I'm a prisoner on [furlough](#) (temporary leave)," said Azimzadeh in an interview with the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran on October 15.

Azimzadeh was [sentenced](#) to six years in prison in March 2015 for “assembly and collusion against national security” and the repeat charge of “propaganda against the state.” In July 2016 he was temporarily released on [furlough](#) after he went on a two-month hunger strike demanding that the authorities reconsider his case.

According to Article 14-7 of the [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#), to which Iran is a signatory: “No one shall be liable to be tried or punished again for an offence for which he has already been finally convicted or acquitted in accordance with the law and penal procedure of each country.”

“All the charges and accusations against me are for trade union activities, such as organizing unions, non-violent labor strikes, and interviews with the media to defend workers’ rights, myself included. I am a worker,” added Azimzadeh.

Azimzadeh and Ehsani-Rad are also due to appear in the Saveh Criminal Court for the charges of “disturbing public opinion” and “disrupting public order.” They are accused of inciting workers at the [Safa Rolling and Pipe Mills Company](#) to go on strike in 2015.

“The Free Workers Union was formed in 2007 on the basis of the Constitution,” Jafarzadeh told the Campaign on October 15, referring to the right to assemble freely. Article 27 of Iran’s [Constitution](#) states, “Public gatherings and marches may be freely held, provided that arms are not carried and that [the events] are not detrimental to the fundamental principles of Islam.”

According to the Free Workers Union’s [Articles of Association](#): “The Union sees itself as a vessel for achieving the rights of all workers in Iran and attaining a humane living standard for the working class based on contemporary advances.”

On October 7, 2016 an appeals court upheld a six-year prison sentence against teacher’s rights union leader, [Esmail Abdi](#).

Labor activism in Iran is seen as a national security offense; independent [labor unions](#) are not allowed to function, strikers are often fired and risk arrest, and labor leaders are consistently [prosecuted](#) under catchall national security charges and sentenced to long prison terms.

Ethnic Minorities’ Rights

URGENT ACTION

Jailed kurdish woman at risk of going blind

Further information on UA: 151/14 Index: MDE 13/4931/2016 Iran Date: 19 October 2016
<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde13/4931/2016/en/>



Iranian Kurdish woman Zeynab Jalalian, who is serving a life sentence imposed after a grossly unfair trial, is at risk of losing her eyesight in prison. The authorities have continued to deny her the specialized medical treatment she needs for a worsening eye condition, including urgent surgery.

Iranian Kurdish woman Zeynab Jalalian, 34, is at risk of losing her eyesight due to being denied specialized medical care for a worsening eye condition. She also suffers from a yeast

infection in her mouth, intestinal and kidney infections, and abnormal uterine bleeding. The authorities have refused to give her access to an eye specialist and to authorize her transfer to a hospital for urgently needed eye surgery and have only given her eye drops. They have also refused her repeated requests for medical leave. According to her lawyer, some of her requests have been rejected outright while others have been accepted on condition that she makes videotaped “confessions”. On one occasion, she says prison authorities told her that she had to have a virginity test before they would allow her to receive medical treatment. Withholding medical treatment resulting in severe pain or suffering in order to force a “confession” amounts to torture under international law.

Zeynab Jalalian is serving a life sentence in Khoy Prison, West Azerbaijan Province, north-west Iran. She was arrested in March 2008 for her social and political activities in support of Kurdish self-determination and her association with the political wing of the Party for Free Life of Kurdistan (PJAK), a Kurdish opposition group which also has an armed wing. She was held in solitary confinement for eight months without access to a lawyer. She says intelligence officials tortured her including flogging her on the soles of her feet, punching her in the stomach, hitting her head against a wall, and threatening her with rape. She was subsequently sentenced to death on the charge of “enmity against God” (moharebeh). Her trial was unfair and lasted no more than a few minutes. The Revolutionary Court in Kermanshah Province found her guilty of “taking up arms against the state” despite the total absence of any of evidence linking her to the armed activities of PJAK. Noting her “alleged membership in the political wing of PJAK” and her movement between Iran and Iraq, the court speculated that “she may have been involved in terrorist operations but is refraining from telling the truth.” Her death sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment. In April 2016, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention issued an opinion, calling on the authorities to release Zeynab Jalalian immediately and accord her an enforceable right to compensation.

Please write immediately in English, Persian, Arabic, French and Spanish or your own language:

- ☐ Urging the Iranian authorities to immediately provide Zeynab Jalalian with the specialized medical care she needs outside prison, including eye surgery, and protect her from further torture and other ill-treatment, including through the denial of adequate medical care;
- ☐ Calling on them to implement the opinion of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which calls for Zeynab Jalalian to be released immediately and accorded an enforceable right to compensation;
- ☐ Urging them to order a prompt, independent and impartial investigation into her allegations of torture and other ill-treatment, bringing to justice anyone found responsible, including those with superior responsibility, in fair trials and without recourse to the death penalty.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 30 NOVEMBER 2016 TO: Head of the Judiciary
Ayatollah Sadegh Larijani Salutation: Your Excellency Prosecutor General of Khoy
Hojatoleslam Alizadeh Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to: President Hassan Rouhani

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below: Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email

Email address Salutation Salutation Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 151/14. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/MDE13/033/2014/en/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Zeynab Jalalian had become engaged in social and political activities when she moved from Iran to the Kurdistan Region of Iraq in 2000. She was active in social and political networks associated with the political wing of PJAK, and focused on, among other things, activities aimed at the empowerment of women belonging to Iran's Kurdish minority. She occasionally travelled to Iran to carry out her activities and was travelling from the Iranian city of Kermanshah in Kermanshah Province to the city of Sanandaj in Kordestan Province at the time of her arrest in March 2008. In December 2008, Zeynab Jalalian appeared before Branch One of the Revolutionary Court in Kermanshah Province on the charge of "enmity against God" (moharebeh), based on her alleged connection with the political wing of PJAK. The court verdict found her guilty of "taking up arms against the state" based on a speculative argument that "she may have been involved in terrorist operations but is refraining from telling the truth." This is a serious violation of the right to presumption of innocence, which requires that everyone charged with a criminal offence is presumed and treated as innocent until and unless a court has judged after a fair trial that the charge has been proved beyond reasonable doubt by the prosecution. Her lawyer, whom she had only been allowed to appoint a few weeks prior to the trial, was denied the opportunity to represent her at the trial as he had not been informed of the date for which it had been scheduled. Her death sentence was upheld on appeal in May 2009 but was commuted to life imprisonment in December 2011 after she was granted clemency by Iran's Supreme Leader.

Since her arrest, Zeynab Jalalian has consistently been under pressure from the authorities to make videotaped "confessions". In May 2016, she was featured in a state television programme called "The Shadow of Terrorism", which denounced PJAK as a "deadly terrorist group" bent on "brainwashing" and recruiting gullible youths and children and killing women and children. The programme referred to reports about Zeynab Jalalian's denial of access to medical care as "a typical propaganda tactic by the terrorist PJAK to take advantage of a victim". Zeynab Jalalian was shown in the programme saying, "The reports about me having lost my sight, my life being at risk or that I am sick are not true. I have had some medical problems but they have been minor." This account was reinforced with lengthier interviews with the head of Khoy Prison, a prison social worker, and a woman introduced as Zeynab Jalalian's cell mate whose face was blurred. They claimed that Zeynab Jalalian has had full access to medical care and her eye pain has been resolved with the use of eye drops. The section of the "documentary" concerning Zeynab Jalalian ended with a short interview with her brother, who said that he had visited her and had been "happy to find that she was healthy." Her sister has since told Amnesty International that Zeynab Jalalian has retracted the "confessions" in this programme. Due to heavy surveillance, her sister said that Zeynab Jalalian had not yet been able to describe to her family the conditions under which she was coerced into giving the video-recorded statement. According to her sister, their brother has also said that the "documentary" distorted the context of his statement, which he had been asked to make while held in detention in early 2016. Following the broadcast, Zeynab Jalalian's lawyer stated in an interview that both her eye condition and her mouth infection were worsening and the basic treatment provided in the prison clinic was insufficient, as she required specialist treatment in a hospital outside prison.

During its 75th Session in April 2016, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted an opinion on the case of Zeynab Jalalian, in which it stated that she had been detained as a direct result of the exercise of her rights and freedoms under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), to which Iran is a state party, namely the right to freedom of expression and association, “for her activities as a social and political activist for the rights of Kurdish women” and “her involvement in political activism... with the non-militant wing of the PJAK”. The statement also said that she had been denied the right to a fair trial under the ICCPR. The Working Group expressed grave concerns about her physical and mental wellbeing and stated that her treatment violated the prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

9 Arab Civilians Arrested in Khuzestan Province

Posted on: 17th September, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/9-arab-civilians-arrested-khuzestan-province>



HRANA News Agency – Reports indicate more pressure on Arab citizens, especially in the south of Khuzestan province. At least 9 civilians were arrested by security forces and there is no information about the status of three of them. Also, the revolutionary court sentenced a social activist and poet to two years in prison. Bagher Gholami’s family has stated that after 6 months from his arrest, there is no information about him.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), Jasem Krooshat, Abdulrahman Gharbavi, Seyed Abdulkarim Mousavi, Reza Obaidavi, Mohammad Haidari, Jabbar Abiyat, Saddam Abiyat and Karim Achrash have been arrested by security forces during past month.

At dawn of Wednesday, August 31st, security forces raided to Kooy-e-Alavi and arrested 5 Sunni civilians with the names of Jasem Krooshat, 40, Abdulrahman Gharbavi, 30, Seyed Abdulkarim Mousavi, 32, Reza Obaidavi and Mohammad Haidari.

Families of these arrestees said that they were transferred to Abulfazl-al-Abbas base of intelligence service in Kiyanpars, in Ahvaz city.

Also, the intelligence service forces have arrested three Arab civilians in Ahvaz and Hamidiyeh cities and transferred them to unknown locations on Thursday August 18.

The confirmed identities of these men are: Younes Abyat, 17, Jabar Abyat from Hamidiyeh and Saddam Abyat, 28, from Ahvaz.

Their families have no information about the location which they are being held at or their possible allegations, after almost a month.

Another Sunni civilian was also arrested by the intelligence service. His name is Karim Achrash, 35, and is a resident of Omm-e-Tamir village, south of Ahvaz. He was arrested on Tuesday August 2, at 9 pm.

Karim Achrash is married and has three 4, -6 -and 9-year-old daughters. He holds bachelor degree in English and is an employee of municipality of Ahvaz.

A close source to Achrash family told HRANA's reporter, "Mr. Achrash was arrested in a way that he could not even change his clothes and after searching the house, he was taken in front of his children's eyes, along with his personal accessories to an unknown location".

This source also said, "His family tried to follow up from the revolutionary court, located in Amniyeh, and also intelligence service office in Kooy-e-Golestan, but authorities responded that they had no information. At the end of the last week there was a call from intelligence service and his family was told that he had been arrested by them".

Need to be mentioned, Karim Achrash had been arrested previously also for his religious activities.

A Poet Was Sentenced to Prison

Jahad Asakereh, a poet from Shadegan, was sentenced to 2 years in prison by the revolutionary court.

Mr. Asakereh had been arrested on January 18, 2014, during memorial ceremony of Mullan Fazel Sakrani, along with a group of poets and social activists.

No Information about Bagher Gholami since 6 Months Ago

After 6 months since Bagher Gholami, religious activist, was arrested on March, 6, 2016, in his house in Kooy-e-Padashahr in Ahvaz, by security forces, there is no information about his status.

19 Arab Civilians Sentenced to Imprisonment and Fine

Posted on: 16th October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/19-arab-civilians-sentenced-imprisonment-fine>

HRANA News Agency – 19 Arab civilians with ages of 15 to 30 were sentenced to imprisonment and fine in branch number 101 of the revolutionary court of this city in Khouzestan province. Their relatives called the trial unfair due to unavailability of the lawyer and the short time of the court.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), Judge Mahmood Sorkheh of branch number 101 of the revolutionary court of Shoosh sentenced 15 out of 19 Arab civilians to 2 years of imprisonment on charge of acts against the national security, damaging governmental properties, and 4 others who are all under 18, to 200 million IRRs fine.

Names of the people who were convicted are as following:

Mohammad Dabat – 22 years old – son of Samir and resident of Shoosh

Saeid Al-Bouaini – 27 years old – son of Ashour and resident of Shoosh

Jaber Kanani – 27 years old – son of Mohsen and resident of Shoosh

Ahmad Dabat – 24 years old – son of Badir and resident of Shoosh

Jaber Dabat – 21 years old – son of Badir and resident of Shoosh

Abdulimam Kanani – 30 years old – son of Mohsen and resident of Shoosh

Kazem Chenanian – 25 years old – son of Saghir and resident of Shoosh

Ghasem Sadi Al-Kasir – 20 years old – son of Karim and resident of Shoosh

Mohammad Kanani – 22 years old – son of Jomeh and resident of Shoosh

Mostafa Esmaili – 24 years old – son of Sabiti and resident of Shoosh

Abdullah Mousavi – 22 years old – son of Jasem and resident of Shoosh

Karim Kanani – 27 years old – son of Abd-Alnabi and resident of Dooslagh village, rural of Shoosh

Mohammad Al Kasi – 20 years old – son of Motir and resident of Shoosh

Mohammad Sagoori – 25 years old – son of Sooyef and resident of Shoosh

Ali Baid Alivi– 25 years old – son of Ajam and resident of Shoosh

Following men have been sentenced to 200 million IRRs fine:

Hadi Doleh Al-Boeini – 18 years old – resident of Shoosh

Hamed Kanani – 17 years old – son of Ghasem and resident of Bait Al Sakhi, rural of Shoosh

Ghasem Mehbah – 15 years old – resident of Shoosh

Abbas Kanani – 18 years old – son of Mohammad and resident of Shoosh

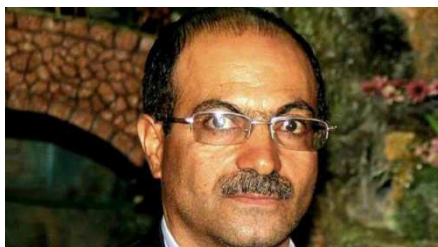
These 19 people were arrested in 2015 and charged with setting a police car in fire during a protest. Intelligence service of Shoosh arrested them and after few months of interrogations in solitary confinements, they were transferred to Fajr prison in Dezfool.

A close source to the families of these prisoners told HRANA's reporter that these prisoners' relatives think the trial was not fair, because of lawyers' absence and short time of the session and the sentences themselves, and said "these civilians are transferred to the wards where dangerous prisoners with murder, armed robbery, kidnapping and rape charges are being kept".

Azeri Rights Activist in Critical Condition After Starting Second Hunger Strike in Tabriz Prison

October 20, 2016

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FDp5MGU-Wk>



Imprisoned Azeri rights activist Rasoul Razavi has received emergency medical treatment on several occasions since he started a hunger strike in Tabriz Prison on October 3, 2016, an informed source told the International Campaign for Human Rights in Iran.

Iranian Azerbaijanis, also known as Azeris and Turks, are Iranians of Azerbaijani ethnicity who come from East Azerbaijan Province, where Tabriz is the capital city, and speak the Azeri language.

“Rasoul’s condition is deteriorating. He was transferred to the prison clinic several times when his blood pressure dropped. The clinic administered Dexamethasone (steroid) shots, but we don’t know if that’s good for him or not. The prison officials have not paid any attention to Rasoul’s condition,” said the source.

Political prisoners in Iran are singled out for harsh treatment, which often includes denial of proper medical care.

Razavi, 48, went on hunger strike “because judicial officials did not keep their promise to investigate his case,” said the source. Razavi had previously gone on [hunger strike](#) for almost a month, from May 19, 2016 to June 15, to demand conditional release and a review of his sentence.

Razavi is also facing new charges for his latest arrest on November 12, 2015, which took place while he was free on bail awaiting decisions on his appeals. He was arrested at a rally where he was protesting a “racist” show that aired on Iran’s state television that was “offensive to Azeri Turks,” said the source.

Razavi has been arrested on a number of occasions in recent years and accused of “separatism” for engaging in non-violent civil activities in support of Azeri cultural rights and for raising awareness on environmental issues. He is currently serving a one-year prison sentence that he received in January 2015 for “propaganda against the state” and a six-month prison sentence based on the same charge that was issued in late 2015. The Appeals Court upheld both sentences.

He was first arrested and briefly detained on April 10, 2010 during a gathering to protest the lack of government action to save Lake Urmia, a salt lake near Iran’s border with Turkey, from drying up.

In September 2011 he was detained for 16 days and released on bail. In November 2013 he was arrested again and released on bail after four months. On July 19, 2015 he was arrested at a rally in Tabriz while protesting the government’s “silence towards the oppression of Turkish Muslims in China” and released on bail five days later.

Religious Minorities' Rights

A Report about 8 Imprisoned Bahais from Gorgan

Posted on: 21st October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/report-8-imprisoned-bahais-gorgan>

HRANA News Agency – Siamak Sadri, Farhad Eghbali, Farhad Fahandexh, Farahmand Sanaei, Foad Fahandexh, Payam Markazi, Kamal Kashani and Korosh Ziyari, 8 Bahais were arrested in 2012, and tried in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh and received sentences between 5 to 10 years in prison. 7 of these prisoners are serving their 5th, and one due to his illness, the 3rd year of their imprisonments without receiving any furlough.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), 32 Bahais from different cities in Golestan province were arrested in a one-year-long project and accused of interaction with Muslims and advocacy of Bahai faith, and put under severe pressure for confessions against themselves and accepting the allegations. 8 of them are serving their 5 to 10 years in Rajaei Shahr prison. The other 24 who are currently waiting for appeal court's verdict, which was held on September 18, are facing sentences between 6 to 11 years.

Kamal Kashani, born in 1968 in Gonbad Kavous was arrested on October 17, 2012 in Gorgan and transferred to Tehran. He was sentenced to 5 years in prison for propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries and membership in Bahai underground organization and sentenced to 5 years in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh.

This Bahai citizen was fired from university in 1980s while he was studying his last semester in Automobile Industry. He has arrest and 5 years and three months of imprisonment on his record between 1983 and 1988. He was charged with membership in a group in Bandar Torkman. During that time his brother Jamal Kashani was arrested in Dehghan Villa in Karaj and executed in Evin prison in 1984.

Farhad Fahandexh, born in 1969 in Torbat-e-Haidariyeh and resident of Gorgan was arrested on October 17, 2012 in his house and after 7 months in limbo, sentenced to 10 years in prison by judge Moghiseh of branch number 28 of the revolutionary court, on charge of advocacy of Bahai faith and managing a Bahai organization.

Need to be mentioned, he was arrested in 1983 (when he was 24) and sentenced to 6 years in prison. He is suffering from different digestive diseases.

Foad Fahandexh (younger brother of Farhad Fahandexh), born in 1963 in Torbat-e-Haidariyeh, and resident of Gonbad Kavoush, was arrested on October 17, 2012 and charged with propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries, membership in an underground Bahai organization and sentenced to 5 years in prison in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh.

Need to be mentioned, despite all of the efforts, requests of furlough for attending his daughter's wedding were rejected. According to him, judge Moghiseh only with few questions and for giving positive answer to the question of "do you pray at your house with your family?" has told him "only this, is enough to issue a sentence for you".

Koorosh Ziyari, born in 1964 in Sangar and resident of Gonbad Kavoods, was arrested on November 18, 2012 when he was going back to his house, in Gorgan. He was also charged with propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries, membership in an underground Bahai organization and sentenced to 5 years in prison in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh.

This Bahai citizen was injured two months before the arrest and was under medical treatment. Consequently he was had pains for some time. After multiple requests for medical furlough, this prisoner was transferred to the hospital but he is not healed completely.

Payam Markazi, born in 1965 in Tehran and resident of Gorgan was arrested on November 18, 2012, and charged with propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries, membership in an underground Bahai organization and sentenced to 5 years in prison in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh. Judicial authorities rejected his request for furlough for attending his daughter's wedding, and also, for helping his ill mother.

His father, Amirhooshang (Shapoor) Markazi was executed in 1984 in Evin prison. His mother, Parichehr Azadeh, was also imprisoned for 5 years in 1980s.

Siyamak Sadri, born in 1973 in Yazd and resident of Gorgan was arrested on October 17, 2012, and charged with propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries, membership in an underground Bahai organization and sentenced to 5 years in prison in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh.

This Bahai citizen was fired from ministry of agriculture because of his religion.

Farahmand Sanayi, born in 1966 in Gorgan was arrested in his house along with his wife on October 17, 2012, and charged with propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries, membership in an underground Bahai organization and sentenced to 5 years in prison in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh. His wife was released after some time.

Farhad Eghbali, born in 1958 in Bandar-e-Gaz and resident of Gorgan was arrested along with 4 other Bahais on November 18, 2012. He was also charged with propaganda against the regime, cooperation with conflicting countries, membership in an underground Bahai organization and sentenced to 5 years in prison in branch number 28 of the revolutionary court by judge Moghiseh.

Some time ago tens of human rights organizations requested UN to prevent the harassment of Bahais immediately and cancel their imprisonment sentences.

Manouchehr Kholousi Arrested to Serve in Vakil Abad Prison of Mashhad

Posted on: 21st October, 2016

<https://hra-news.org/en/manouchehr-kholousi-arrested-serve-vakil-abad-prison-mashhad>



HRANA News Agency – Manouchehr Kholousi, Bahai citizen was arrested one month prior to the determined date by security forces in order to serve his one year.

According to the report of Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), security forces raided into Manouchehr Kholousi's house on Thursday, October 6, and after arresting him, transferred him to Vakil Abad prison of Mashhad.

A close source to his family told HRANA's reporter: "He had been summoned and was supposed to be there in a month."

Manouchehr Kholousi was arrested for the 6th times in December 2013, and was sentenced to 6 years in prison in branch number 3 of the revolutionary court, on charge of acts against the national security and propaganda against the regime.

Later, this sentence was reduced to one year in prison in appeal court.

Need to be mentioned, his two daughters, Nika and Nava are in prison since more than 2 years ago to serve the sentences of 6 years and half and 4 years and half in Vakil Abad prison of Mashhad.